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What's New

New Registration for General Contractors



On April 1, Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster launched a new registration program for general contractors. All general contractors seeking permits to erect one-, two-, or three-family homes are now required to register with the Department by October 31, 2008. After that date, only general contractors registered with the Buildings Department will be issued building permits for these types of buildings. Unregistered individuals or entities found

building such homes after October 31, 2008 will be subject to violations, Stop Work Orders, criminal charges, and the seizure of vehicles and construction tools. To learn more about this new registration program, view the [press release](#), General Contractor Registration [fact sheet](#) (34 kb-pdf) and Insurance Requirements [fact sheet](#) (33 kb-pdf).

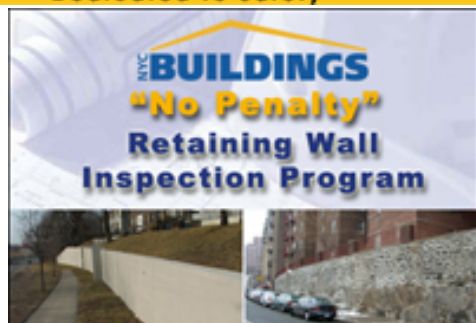
Construction Safety Week 2008

Dedicated to Safety

On April 28, the Buildings Department will kick off its annual Construction Safety Week. The Department will host a weeklong series of events to improve construction safety. This year's topics include: scaffolds and sheds, excavations, the New NYC Construction Codes, demolitions, gut renovations, illegal conversions, crane operations and concrete operations. Visit our [website](#) in the upcoming days for more information about these events.

Annual Retaining Wall Inspection Program

Dedicated to Safety



The Department is now offering visual examinations of private retaining walls to property owners without the threat of violations. As part of the annual Private Retaining Wall Inspection Program, which ends May 16, private property owners may call 3-1-1 to request retaining wall inspections. For more information, view the [press release](#) and our retaining walls [guide](#) (729 kb-pdf).

OSHA Grants

Information You Need To Know

On March 26, the [U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) announced that it is seeking applications for [Susan Harwood Training Grants](#). OSHA awards grants to nonprofit organizations to provide training and education programs on safety and health topics for employers and employees. The deadline to [apply for a grant](#) is May 23. For more information, view OSHA's [press release](#).

ECB Violation Reclassification

Information You Need To Know

To enhance our enforcement, we are streamlining the Environmental Control Board violation process to consolidate duplicate codes and to reclassify violations and penalties to focus on serious offenses and offenders. These changes comport with the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) Classification of Violations and are the subject of rulemaking by the Buildings Department and the Environmental Control Board. On April 14 at 5:00 pm, a public hearing on the proposed rules will be held on the 10th floor at the Environmental Control Board, located at 66 John Street in Manhattan.

View the [ECB proposed rule](#) (520 kb-pdf) and the [Buildings proposed rule](#) (151 kb-pdf).

Citywide Inspection of Scaffolds and Sheds

Dedicated to Safety



On April 4, Buildings Commissioner Lancaster announced the results of the Buildings Department's 30-day citywide [inspection sweep](#) to crack down on unsafe supported scaffolds and sidewalk sheds. Of the 1,654 sites inspected as part of the sweep, 28% of the inspected supported scaffolds and sidewalk sheds did not comply with the City's Building Code. To learn more about the sweep, view the [press release](#).

Coming Soon! Drywell Audit Program Expansion

Dedicated to Safety

To better ensure construction professionals are meeting Building Code requirements for safe and proper water drainage, we are expanding the Drywell Audit Program to Queens. Beginning April 21, all Queens site engineers must notify the Buildings Department 48 hours prior to digging a sand column and installing a drywell. Site engineers must call (212) 227-4416 to

inform the Department of this pending work. To learn more, view the [service announcement](#) (28 kb-pdf).

FAQ: When Will the New Codes Be Published?

Information You Need To Know



The [New NYC Construction Codes](#) code books will be published by the [International Code Council](#) and will be available through its website and at the [NYC CityStore](#). Although not completed, the publication process is underway. Visit the [NYC Construction Codes](#) section of

our website for more information and to link to an [interim, integrated version](#) of the New Codes.

Buildings Around Town

NY Society of Architects 29th Technical Forum

On April 17, the [New York Society of Architects](#) will hold its 29th Professional Technical Forum to discuss New York City's current Building Code and the [New NYC Construction Codes](#). At the forum, Buildings Department Deputy Commissioner [Fatma Amer](#), PE, and Chief Code Engineer and Senior Architect Keith Wen, RA, will discuss the Means of Egress and Accessibility requirements in the New Codes. Seating is limited and registration is required. View the [flyer](#) (25 kb-pdf) for more information.

Reminders

New Schedule C Heating and Combustion Form

Making It Easier

To streamline our processes, we have simplified the requirements to request a Boiler appointment and have released a newly-revised Schedule C Heating and Combustion ([PW1-C](#)) Form. Beginning April 21, only the new version of the form will be accepted. For more information, view the New Schedule C Heating and Combustion Form [fact sheet](#) (34 kb-pdf).

Plan Exam Notification System Enhancement

Making It Easier

To improve Department efficiency, on April 1 we enhanced our [Plan Examination Notification System](#) (PENS) to streamline scheduling plan exam appointments. Now you may request a plan exam appointment by selecting and using a unique identification and PIN number with the [PENS Submission Form](#) (35 kb-pdf). For more information, view the Enhanced PENS System [fact sheet](#) (28 kb-pdf).

Suspended Scaffold Seminars

Dedicated to Safety



To promote safe construction practices, our [Scaffold Safety Team](#) conducts scaffold safety seminars every Monday and Friday to address the [rules and regulations](#) for special riggers. View the [flyer](#) (85 kb-pdf) for more information on how to attend one of these seminars.

Did You Know?

Did you know that retaining walls are particularly susceptible to deterioration as the seasons change and rainfall increases? To learn more about signs of erosion and retaining wall maintenance, view our retaining walls [guide](#) (729 kb-pdf).

Visit our [Homepage](#) for more information on any of these announcements.

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