



NYC.gov NEWS

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What's New

Construction Safety Week 2008



The Buildings Department's Construction Safety Week - our 4th annual week-long program of events and educational seminars on safe construction practices - will begin April 28. This year's topics include: [scaffolds](#) and sheds, [excavations](#), the [New NYC Construction Codes](#), [demolitions](#), gut renovations, illegal conversions, [crane operations](#) and [concrete operations](#). Seats are limited; please register in advance. View the [Construction Safety Week Schedule](#) to learn more.

Crane Sweep Update

Dedicated to Safety

The Buildings Department has completed its citywide safety inspection sweep of tower cranes and announced its findings April 17. The safety sweep's results found that 21 of 29 tower cranes installed and in use throughout the five boroughs passed inspection and complied with regulations. The eight tower cranes issued violations were immediately shut down and remained out of operation until the violations were corrected. To learn more, view the [press release](#) and our [new protocol](#) for tower cranes.

New Checklist for Anti-Harassment Areas

Information You Need To Know

Beginning April 28, applicants seeking New Building, Alteration or Subdivision permits in the Hudson Yards, West Chelsea, Garment Center, Greenpoint-Williamsburg and Clinton Special District will be required to submit a new Anti-Harassment Area checklist with the application. In the Clinton Special District, applicants must indicate on the checklist if the property is in the Preservation Area, Perimeter Area or Other Area and submit additional information. To learn more, view the Hudson Yards, West Chelsea, Garment Center and Greenpoint-Williamsburg Anti-Harassment Areas [service announcement](#) (31 kb-pdf) and the Clinton Special District [service announcement](#) (31 kb-pdf).

Retaining Wall Program

Dedicated to Safety

The Buildings Department has launched its annual Private Retaining Wall Inspection Program and is now offering visual examinations of private retaining walls to property owners without the threat of violations. Under this program, which ends May 16, private property owners may request inspections of their walls by calling 3-1-1. For more information, view the [press release](#) and our retaining walls [guide](#) (729 kb-pdf).

New eFiling Help Form

Making it Easier

To provide fast and accurate responses to eFiling questions, the Buildings Department has developed a new online help form that refers questions directly to Department experts who can provide answers. To learn more, view the [service notice](#) (124 kb-pdf) or use the website's [help form](#).

Changes Under the New Codes

Information You Need To Know

On July 1, 2008, certain administrative provisions, enforcement provisions and construction safeguards under the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) will go into effect. As a result, the Buildings Department has a number of corresponding [rules and operational changes](#). In order to effectively transition to the New Codes and assist you in meeting the July 1 deadline, we will be providing information and updates regularly. For an overview of these changes, view our [supplemental Buildings News](#) (205 kb-pdf) and visit the [New Codes](#) section of our website.

License Reinstatement Change

Information You Need To Know

Beginning July 1, the Buildings Department will no longer reinstate licenses that have been expired for more than five years. Individuals with licenses expired more than five years must reapply for the license and meet the license's original requirements, including taking any necessary examinations. To learn more about this change, view the License Reinstatement [fact sheet](#) (50 kb-pdf).

Street Tree Rezoning Amendment

Information You Need To Know

On April 30, the City Council will vote on whether to adopt the Street Tree Rezoning Amendment. This amendment would establish regulations that require planting street trees with all new developments, major enlargements and certain conversions. This proposed requirement would increase the street tree canopy, improve air quality and storm water management and support Mayor Bloomberg's [PlaNYC](#) initiative. View [City Planning](#) and [Parks and Recreation](#) websites for more information.

Drywell Audit Program Expansion

Dedicated to Safety

To better ensure construction professionals are meeting Building Code requirements for safe and proper water drainage, we have expanded the Drywell Audit Program to Queens. All Queens site engineers must now 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).

Site Safety Coordinator and Manager Qualifications

Dedicated to Safety

On May 29, the Buildings Department will hold a public hearing on the proposed site safety coordinator and site safety manager qualifications rule. The hearing will be held at 2pm at the Buildings Department headquarters, located at 280 Broadway in Manhattan, in the 3rd floor conference room.

Code Compass

Information You Need To Know



To prepare you for July 1, when the New NYC Construction Codes go into effect in phases, we have updated our New Codes Frequently Asked Questions. Please view the [FAQs](#) (262 kb-pdf) or visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Buildings Around Town

New Codes Presentation



On April 16, Gus Sirakis, PE, Deputy Director of the Office of Technical Certification and Research, delivered a [presentation](#) (3,905 kb-pdf) on construction site safety and the New Codes for the International Concrete Repair Institute. The New Codes will go into effect in phases beginning July 1, 2008.

Training & Workshops

Masonry Seminars



On May 15, the International Masonry Institute will host a series of seminars on masonry issues. Registration is required and seating is limited. View the [flyer](#) (35 kb-pdf) for more information.

AIA Queens Lecture



On May 6, the Buildings Department Deputy Commissioner Fatma Amer, PE, will deliver a presentation on the New NYC Construction Codes at the AIA Queens Chapter meeting. The presentation will focus on Means of Egress and Accessibility Requirements in the New Building Code. Reservations are required, and seating is limited. View the [flyer](#) (263 kb-pdf) for more information.

Did You Know?

Did you know that you can RSVP to [Construction Safety Week 2008](#) events and seminars online? Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

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

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