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What's New

Site Safety Coordinator Certification



As part of our ongoing effort to ensure qualified people are managing construction sites and upholding safety standards, on June 2, 2008 the Department will begin certifying Site Safety Coordinators, who will be responsible for supervising construction and demolition of 10- to 14-story buildings. We are in the process of developing education, training, inspection and

notification requirements for Site Safety Coordinators. 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. Please see [Chapter 33](#) of the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) for specific Site Safety Coordinator duties and qualifications. For more information, view the [service announcement](#) and our [How to Become a Site Safety Coordinator](#) guide.

Construction Safety Week



From April 28 through May 2, the Buildings Department hosted its [4th Annual Construction Safety Week](#), a weeklong series of outreach events and educational seminars to provide workers, contractors and the public with important information on safe construction practices. View the [press release](#) and photos from the [Staten Island](#) and [Bronx](#) outreach events.

Street Tree Zoning Requirements

Information You Need To Know

To enforce City Council's citywide street tree zoning text amendment adopted April 30, 2008, the Buildings Department has created two new required items that automatically apply to New Building, Alteration 1 and Alteration 2 (enlargement) applications. View the [Street Trees Zoning fact sheet](#) (26 kb-pdf) for more information.

Last Chance! Retaining Wall Inspection Program

Dedicated to Safety



Our annual Private Retaining Wall Inspection Program will come to an end May 16. Property owners who would like to request an inspection for their retaining wall without receiving violations are encouraged to call 3-1-1. For more information, view the [press release](#) and our retaining walls [guide](#) (729 kb-pdf).

Protect Your Home From Floods

Dedicated to Safety

As weather patterns change and the likelihood of rainstorms increases, residents should take steps to protect their homes in case of flooding. To learn more about how to protect against floods, view the [Ready New York Flooding](#) (1,625 kb-pdf) guide.

2010 Electrical Code Revision Cycle

Information You Need To Know

To ensure New York City remains on the cutting edge of technology and electrical engineering, every three years the Buildings Department adopts the most current National Electrical Code (NEC) with [amendments](#) specifically tailored to New York City's needs. Currently, the technical review of the 2008 NEC is underway, and we are soliciting proposals for the 2010 NEC revision. To suggest a change, please submit the [ED-77](#) (69 kb-pdf) proposal form to the Buildings Department by July 31, 2008.

Update to Tracking Numbers

Information You Need To Know

Because the [Licensing Unit](#) now updates and issues general contractor tracking numbers, all contractors with an active tracking number must bring their original insurance certificates to the Licensing Unit by October 31, 2008. Contractors who do not meet this deadline will have invalid tracking numbers and will not be permitted to pull or renew permits. To learn more, view the General Contractor Registration [fact sheet](#) (33 kb-pdf).

General Contractor FAQs

Information You Need To Know



On April 1, 2008, the Buildings Department launched a [new registration program](#) for general contractors seeking permits to erect one-, two- or three-family homes. We have created a Frequently Asked Questions guide to assist contractors registering with the Department. View the General Contractor [FAQs](#) (53 kb-pdf) for more information.

Licensing Term and Fee Changes

Information You Need To Know

Beginning July 1, 2008, fees will be increased for Hoist Machine Operator, Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractor and Master Plumber license applications. In addition, licensees whose applications are processed after this date will receive a three-year license term, instead of the current one-year term. View the [fact sheet](#) (24 kb-pdf) for more information. In addition, Concrete Testing Laboratories' annual license renewal fees will increase. For more information, view the Licensing Fee Changes [fact sheet](#) (35 kb).

Place of Assembly Permit

Information You Need To Know

With the July 1, 2008 implementation of the [New NYC Construction Codes](#), any initial or renewal Place of Assembly Permit will be issued as a Certificate of Operation. We are updating the PA-1 form, and after July 1 only this updated version will be accepted for initial applications and post-approval amendments. View the [fact sheet](#) (25 kb-pdf) for more information.



Reference Number

Making It Easier

The DOB Reference Number is a unique, randomly-generated number that appears on your eFiling documentation and allows the Department to quickly locate and file your application. Every time you update an eFiling application, the DOB Reference Number will change to reflect that updates have been made. Because of this, you must make sure that the DOB Reference Number on the hard copy application matches the DOB Reference Number online. An official filing record will not be accepted if these numbers do not match. To learn more, view the eFiling Policy [fact sheet](#) (26 kb-pdf).



Tech Support

Making It Easier

Buildings Department experts are available to assist applicants experiencing problems with the eFiling application process, unless the problem is directly related to the user's computer or Internet connection. For more information on how to determine the source of a technical problem and how to seek assistance from our experts, read our [eFiling Tech Support Guidelines](#) (78 kb-pdf).

New Requirement for Annual Boiler Inspections

Information You Need To Know

Upon implementation of the New NYC Construction Codes on July 1, 2008, any defects found during a low pressure boiler inspection must be corrected within 45 days of the inspection. View the New Code Requirements Annual Boiler Inspections [fact sheet](#) (27 kb-pdf) for more information.

New OTCR Webpage

Information You Need To Know



For all work projects, select administrative and enforcement provisions and construction safeguards under the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) are going into effect July 1, 2008. The Department's Office of Technical Certification and Research ([OTCR](#)) will be responsible for implementing and administering several of the most

important changes under the New NYC Construction Codes. We've launched a new section of our website dedicated to [OTCR](#) so that you may quickly familiarize yourself with the upcoming changes, such as enhanced required qualifications and standards.

Special Inspections

Information You Need To Know



To improve construction safety and quality, soon-to-be required Special Inspections will replace Controlled Inspections. Defined in [Chapter 17](#) of the 2008 Building Code, Special Inspections are an important verification

that work considered critical to life safety and property protection has been or is being constructed according to approved plans and specifications. The Buildings Department is establishing certain inspections required during construction, as well as qualifications, responsibilities and standards for these inspections. For more information, view the Special Inspections [fact sheet](#) (276 kb-pdf) and the [proposed qualifications](#) (370 kb-pdf).

Buildings Around Town

Buildings Receives ICC Award



On Wednesday, May 7, the [International Code Council](#) will present the Buildings Department with the Raising the Profile Award. The award honors individuals or organizations for contributions to raising the public awareness of the work accomplished by code officials to

improve public safety in the built environment. The Department was recognized for its programs to improve public safety, including the [Scaffold Safety Team](#), [Scaffold Worker Outreach Program](#) and the teams created under the [Special Enforcement Program](#).

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.

New NYC Construction Codes Experts Coming to Your Borough

Dedicated to Safety



In preparation for July 1, 2008 when the New NYC Construction Codes go into effect, Buildings Department experts will be leading informational seminars over the next several weeks to provide an overview of the New Codes, highlight upcoming operational changes and answer any questions. View the [fact sheet](#) (25 kb-pdf) for more information about these sessions.

Did You Know?

Did you know that as part of our [4th Annual Construction Safety Week](#), we distributed more than 100 free safety harnesses to construction workers in the Bronx? View [photos](#) from the event.

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

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