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What's New

Acting Commissioner LiMandri Testifies on Construction Safety



On July 15, Acting Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri testified before the City Council's Housing and Buildings Committee on several key pieces of legislation designed to advance construction site and building safety. The seven bills addressed at the hearing focus on new regulations for tower and climber cranes, concrete operations, site safety requirements, vacant buildings and retaining walls. This follows the recent June City Hall event where Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and the Buildings Department announced an [aggressive legislative](#)

[agenda](#) to enhance accountability and oversight of construction sites.



Buildings News Celebrates Its Fourth Anniversary

July 2008 marks the fourth anniversary of [Buildings News](#), and it has reached a new milestone: we now have more than 21,000 subscribers! We are continually exploring ways to enhance this newsletter, and welcome any suggestions or topics that you would like covered in upcoming issues. Please [email](#) any recommendations to us.

The New NYC Construction Codes Are Now in Effect

Information You Need To Know



The [New NYC Construction Codes](#) are now in effect, and applicants may choose to use the [New Codes](#) or the [1968 Building Code](#) during a one-year interim period. Although the New Codes will not be mandated for all new construction until July 1, 2009, certain administrative and enforcement provisions and construction safeguards under the New Codes are now required. For answers to specific questions, please view our 2008 Code Implementation [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (56 kb-pdf) or contact our [Codes experts](#). View the Mayor's Office [Press Release](#).

After-Hours Variance Payments at the Manhattan Office

Making It Easier

In an effort to improve customer service, beginning July 21, payments for the After-Hours Variance application fee must be submitted at Manhattan's 4th floor Cashier's Office at Central Inspections. The Manhattan Borough Office on the 3rd floor will continue to process these submitted applications once the initial filing fee is processed on the 4th floor. To learn more, read the [service notice](#) (34 kb-pdf).

Buildings Launches Office of Technical Certification and Research

Information You Need To Know



With the implementation of the New Codes, the Department officially launched the Office of Technical Certification and Research (OTCR). The [OTCR webpage](#) has been updated to include important information, including the [transition from MEA to OTCR](#) (25 kb-pdf), [product recognition guidelines](#) (43 kb-pdf), OTCR [Technical Bulletins](#) (26 kb-pdf), lists of [MEA legacy laboratories](#), [Special Inspection](#) (715 kb-pdf) and [Approved Agency](#) (5,276 kb-pdf) Rules.

You will also find [Special Inspection](#) and [Approved Agency](#) general overviews and [Special Inspection qualifications](#) (125 kb-pdf). We will update this page frequently to include upcoming outreach and training programs and important operational information.

New Legislation Enhances Accountability and Oversight

Dedicated to Safety



On June 30, Mayor Bloomberg advanced the Department's aggressive legislative agenda by signing two bills into law, enhancing accountability and oversight. [Intro 511-A](#), now Local Law 27/08, formalizes the Department's reporting disciplinary action against licensed architects and engineers to New York State. [Intro 754-A](#), now Local Law 29/08, strengthens public access to construction site injury and fatality information. To learn more, view the Mayor's [remarks](#)

from the bill signing, see [photos](#) from the event, and read the Mayor's [press release](#) on the legislative agenda announced in early June.

New PW3 Requirement Approaching

Information You Need To Know

To make verifying the cost of any alteration work easier, the Department has revised the [PW3](#) form to capture more detailed construction cost information. Beginning August 4, applicants must submit the revised PW3 at Pre-Filing for all amendments affecting costs and sign off. To learn more, view the New PW3 Requirements [service announcement](#) (21 kb-pdf). In addition, FAQs will be posted on our website shortly.

License Reinstatement Change

Information You Need To Know

The Buildings Department no longer reinstates 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 [service announcement](#) (25 kb-pdf).

CityStore to Sell New Codes Books

Information You Need To Know



New York City's [CityStore](#) is now taking orders for the New NYC Construction Codes books. The New Codes consist of four volumes: the 2008 Building Code, the 2008 Plumbing Code, the 2008 Electrical Code and the

2008 Fuel Gas Code. These Codes books will be available mid-July, and you can pre-order copies today. You can also read an electronic version of the [New Codes](#) on our website.

Code Compass: Special Inspections Replace Controlled Inspections

Information You Need To Know



Under the [New NYC Construction Codes](#), Special Inspections replace Controlled Inspections for all construction projects filed on or after July 1, 2008. Special Inspections may only be performed by Special Inspectors working for a Buildings

Department-approved Special Inspection Agency. Special Inspections are defined in [Chapter 17](#) (329 kb-pdf) of the 2008 Building Code and the Department's [Special Inspections Rule](#) (712 kb-pdf). For more information, read the updated Special Inspections [Code Compass](#), the [general overview for Special Inspections](#), and the Comparison of 2008 Code Special Inspections to 1968 Code Controlled Inspections [table](#) (39 kb-pdf).

Buildings Around Town

High Risk Construction Roundtable



On July 8, the Buildings Department hosted an industry roundtable discussion on high risk construction with industry executives from construction, labor, management and real estate. The roundtable was co-hosted by [McGraw-Hill](#), publisher of New York Construction Magazine, and featured discussions lead by Buildings Department experts on crane, concrete and excavation operations. View [photos](#) from the event.

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