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BUILDINGS NEWS

What's New

New Legislation to Enhance Safety of Crane Operations



On September 22, Mayor Bloomberg signed [three new pieces of legislation](#) into law that improve the safety of crane operations throughout New York City. Intro [794-A](#) (24 kb-pdf) requires at least 30 hours of Department-approved training and an eight-hour refresher course every three years for all workers involved in the erection, jumping, climbing, rigging or dismantling of a climber or a tower crane. Intro

[796-A](#) (34 kb-pdf) requires rigging and jumping plans to be submitted to the Department prior to the erecting, jumping, climbing, rigging or dismantling of a tower or climber crane. Intro [795-A](#) (11 kb-pdf) prohibits the use of nylon slings unless the manufacturer's manual specifically states or recommends their use and softening mechanisms have been applied to all sharp edges.

This legislation is part of a larger [construction safety plan](#) announced by Mayor Bloomberg, the City Council, the Buildings Department and industry leaders in June and builds upon a [\\$4 million investment](#) by the City to conduct an in-depth assessment of high-risk construction activities.

Electrical Inspection Appointments Now Available Online

Making It Easier

To facilitate scheduling, [appointments for electrical inspections](#) may now be [requested electronically](#) (244 kb-pdf). To do so, visit our website at www.nyc.gov/buildings, click on the "[Forms](#)" section, and select "[Appointments](#)" or "[Electrical](#)."

Safety Tips to Prepare for Heating Season

Information You Need To Know

With heating season beginning October 1, 2008, the Buildings Department recommends some simple steps to ensure your building is ready for winter. Visit our website at www.nyc.gov/buildings to view our tips on [winterizing buildings](#) and to learn more about installing [carbon monoxide detectors](#) and [smoke alarms](#).

Upcoming Revised Electrical Application Form

Information You Need To Know

To capture more information when filing for an electrical permit, the Department has revised the [Electrical Permit Application](#) (ED16A). Beginning October 7, applicants will be required to detail work being done on each floor. View the [service notice](#) (39 kb-pdf) for more information.

Code Compass: New Forms for Material Acceptance

Information You Need To Know



With the July 1, 2008 implementation of the [New NYC Construction Codes](#), the [Office of Technical Certification and Research](#) (OTCR) absorbed the functions of the Materials and Equipment Acceptance (MEA) division.

With this transition, the Department has developed [three new forms](#) (22 kb-pdf) that will be used for [material acceptance](#) (301 kb-pdf): [OTCR1](#), [OTCR2](#) and [OTCR3](#). Materials are now categorized as either "Code-prescribed" or "alternative to the Code." Products considered as alternative to the Code (not Code-prescribed) will require testing and evaluation criteria to be approved and adopted by the Department.

Buildings Around Town

NYSA Technical Forum

On September 25, Alan Price, PE, and Constandino (Gus) Sirakis, PE, will lead a presentation on the new [Office of Technical Certification and Research](#) as well as Special and Progress Inspections at the [New York Society of Architects](#) 30th Technical Forum. Topics to be discussed include policies for accepting materials and products, the new [TR1 form](#) and the timing of progress inspections.

Visit the [NYC Construction Codes](#) section of our website to learn more about changes introduced with the implementation of the New Codes. View the [flyer](#) (25 kb-pdf) for more information about the event.

Reminder

Scaffold and Shed Maintenance Logs

Dedicated to Safety

The Department now [requires a maintenance log](#) (32 kb-pdf) be kept for supported scaffolds and sidewalk sheds in use across the City. These structures must be inspected daily with the results recorded in the log.

Deadline to Register as a General Contractor Approaching

Information You Need To Know



To ensure construction work is performed by registered, [insured general contractors](#) (33 kb-pdf), all contractors seeking to build one-, two- and three-family homes [must register](#) (31 kb-pdf) with the Department by November 1 to obtain a New Building permit. This includes general contractors who already have a tracking number with the

Department. In April, the Department launched the [registration program](#) which is designed to increase a general contractor's accountability on a job site and protect homebuyers from poor quality construction.

Did You Know?



Did you know that the [My Community](#) feature on our website allows you to search all New Building, Major Alteration and Full Demolition applications filed with the Department by community board? With this easy-to-use search tool, you can learn more about the development and construction in your neighborhood and around New York City.

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