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## BUILDINGS NEWS

### *2009: The Year Ahead*

In the year ahead, the Department will continue to focus on making construction sites safer for workers and the public, expanding oversight of construction activity and streamlining Department operations. As part of this effort, the Department will introduce handheld computers for Inspectors, establish standards for professionals to participate in the professional certification program, and modernize its Cranes & Derricks Unit. In addition, starting July, the [new NYC Construction Codes](#) will be mandated for all new construction.

### *Focusing on Safety*

#### Managing High Risk Construction



The NYC Department of Buildings  
New Vision of Safety

RAISING STANDARDS  
**MANAGING  
HIGH RISK  
CONSTRUCTION**  
Cranes | Excavations | Concrete

PROGRAM →

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**TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 3, 2009**  
7:30AM to 3:00PM  
McGraw-Hill Conference Center  
1221 Avenue of The Americas  
Second Floor Gallery and Theater

On February 3, Commissioner LiMandri will announce findings from the Department's [analysis](#) of high-risk construction operations at [BuildSafe New York: the NYC Department of Buildings' New Vision for Safety](#). As part of the study, launched in April 2008, specialized engineering experts have been examining crane, concrete and excavation operations to improve the practices and procedures employed when,

building in New York City. At *BuildSafe New York*, experts will detail findings from the study and participants will discuss recommendations to create a safer construction industry.

Please visit [www.navigatingopportunities.com](http://www.navigatingopportunities.com) for program and registration information for the *BuildSafe New York* event.

## Raising Standards for New Construction

### Dedicated to Safety

For the past year, professionals have had the option to use the [1968 Building Code](#) or the [new NYC Construction Codes](#). Beginning July 1, 2009, all new construction must comply with the new NYC Construction Codes. The new NYC Construction Codes enhance building and construction safety through expanded requirements for fire protection, structural integrity and job site accountability on all new construction projects.

## Setting New Safety Requirements for Demolition Work

### Dedicated to Safety

To enhance the safety of demolition work, the Department is streamlining the process for accepting demolition documents and will require additional information to be submitted on partial and full demolition jobs. Stay tuned to *Buildings News* to learn more about these changes.

## Increasing Construction Oversight

### Registering for Special Inspections

#### Information You Need To Know

Registration for the [Special Inspection Agency](#) Program will be rolled out in Spring 2009, allowing agencies to electronically register with the Department. Special Inspections, which replace Controlled Inspections from the 1968 Building Code, are important to ensure compliance with the code and rules of the Department.

Visit the new NYC Construction Codes section of the Department's [website](#) for important updates and information.

### Expanding Oversight of the Professional Certification Program

#### Information You Need To Know

This year the Department will launch a new program for licensed architects and engineers who wish to professionally certify applications. Under this new program, only individuals who meet standards set by the Department will be allowed to professionally certify.

### Greening New York City

#### Information You Need To Know



To further the energy-efficiency goals of [PlaNYC](#), the Department will begin auditing New Building and Alteration applications for compliance with the Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State ([ECCCNYS](#)) in February 2009. Applications that do not meet these requirements will be issued objections and notices of revocation as appropriate. To demonstrate compliance with ECCCNYS, applicants filing New Building and Alteration Type 1, 2 or 3 OT applications are required to include a [Professional Statement](#), [Energy Analysis](#) and [Supporting Documentation](#) with their application. To learn more, please visit the [NYS Energy Code](#) section of the Department's website.

## ***Streamlining Operations***

### **Handheld Technology for Inspectors**

#### Information You Need To Know

In the upcoming year, the Department will equip all field inspection teams with newly-engineered, state-of-the-art, handheld wireless technology. With this new equipment, DOB Inspectors will be able to upload inspection results and violation information to the Department's [Building Information System](#) (BIS). This new technology will increase the efficiency and accuracy of the inspection process and decrease delays in reporting crucial safety information at construction sites.

### **Overhauling the Cranes & Derricks Unit**

#### Information You Need To Know

The Department is in the process of overhauling its Cranes & Derricks Unit by revising forms and permits to capture and display pertinent information, putting more information online, and standardizing inspection checklists. As part of this modernization, a new database is being developed to include plan examination and inspection results. In March, workers will be required to show proof of compliance with training requirements outlined in [Intro 794-A](#) (§3319.10 of the Building Code), which was [signed into law](#) on September 22, 2008.

## ***Reminders***

### **Documentation for Class C Hoist Machine Operator Licenses**

#### Information You Need To Know

Individuals seeking to maintain a [Class C Hoist Machine Operator License](#) must provide [documentation](#) of certification from the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operations ([NCCCO](#)) by September 30, 2009.

### **Safety Training Deadline Extended**

#### Dedicated to Safety

All workers at "[major buildings](#)" are now [required](#) to complete a 10-hour OSHA-approved safety class. The deadline to complete this training has been extended to July 1, 2009.

### **New SRO Required Item**

#### Information You Need To Know

Beginning February 2, 2009, applicants seeking to alter or demolish a Single Room Occupancy multiple dwelling must comply with a [new required item](#) on all applications that have not yet reached approved status. This required item does not apply to Alteration Type 3 applications for sheds, fences or curb cuts.

### **Elevator Inspections**

#### Information You Need To Know

With the increased elevator inspection and filing requirements put in place by the new NYC Construction Codes, the Department is [allowing Inspectors](#) who have obtained Qualified Elevator Inspector ([QEI](#)) certification, but are not Department-licensed, to perform elevator inspections and tests in calendar year 2009.

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