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BUILDINGS NEWS

What's New

New Steps to Strengthen Safety of High-Risk Construction



On February 3, 2009, Commissioner LiMandri announced a [series of changes](#) in the way high-risk construction will be carried out and regulated in New York City. These changes, which were announced at [BuildSafe New York: the NYC Department of Buildings' New Vision for Safety](#), are based on 41 recommendations developed during the unprecedented [\\$4 million study](#) of crane, hoist, excavation and concrete operations

launched last year in response to an increase in construction accidents.

New Worker Safety Campaign

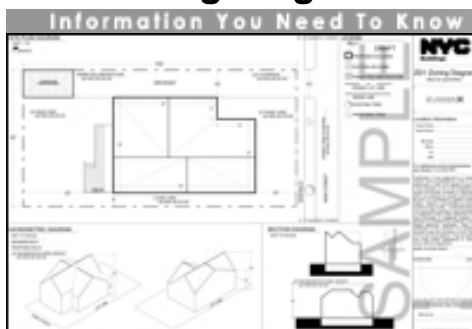
Dedicated to Safety



On February 3, 2009, Commissioner LiMandri joined Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Linares, representatives from the City's leading construction firms, industry unions and worker advocacy groups to launch a citywide [worker safety campaign](#) to encourage construction workers to properly wear their safety harnesses while working at a construction site. Thousands of posters, banners and brochures - in

[English](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Hindi](#) and [Urdu](#) - are being distributed throughout the City, including high-rise construction sites, designated worker centers, union halls, community centers, telephone kiosks, and the Buildings Department's five borough offices.

New Zoning Diagrams and Development Challenge Process



To advance transparency, increase compliance with zoning regulations and formalize the process to challenge zoning approvals, on February 2, 2009, Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner LiMandri announced that the Buildings Department will be requiring a [new zoning diagram](#) with certain applications. The new diagram graphically summarizes the proposed zoning bulk, yards

and street plantings of the project. The Department is also instituting a new 30-day [public challenge period](#) that will give the public a greater voice in the development process, establishes a formal time frame to challenge Department approvals, and will prevent confusion and unnecessary or unintended costs for development. View the Mayor's Office [press release](#) to learn more.

Mayor Bloomberg Signs Legislation to Enhance Construction Safety



On February 10, 2009, Mayor Bloomberg [signed two bills](#) into law that increase the Buildings Department's oversight of the construction industry and enhance its enforcement powers. [Introductory Number 878-A](#) mandates that contractors carrying out major construction, demolition and concrete work obtain a safety registration number from the Department in order to perform work in the City. [Introductory Number 760-A](#)

enables the Department to assign a safety compliance officer to monitor construction sites that have received immediately hazardous violations. The signing of these two bills completes the Department's [comprehensive legislative agenda](#) to increase construction safety and accountability that was announced with Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn last June.

Proposed Rule Public Hearing

Information You Need To Know

On March 6, 2009, a public hearing on proposed rules [105-03](#) and [105-04](#) related to public challenge of Department decisions will be held at 3:00pm in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at Department headquarters, located at 280 Broadway in Manhattan.

New Boiler Inspection Report

Information You Need To Know

As part of the implementation of the new NYC Construction Codes, the Department has [updated](#) the [Boiler Inspection Report](#) (BO-9) and [Affirmation of Correction](#) (BO-13) forms to collect additional information. Authorized boiler inspectors must now use the BO-9 form to report boiler defects instead of the BO-13 form.

Reminders

Registering as a Special Inspection Agency

Information You Need To Know

Registration as a [Special Inspection Agency](#) will be rolled out later this year, allowing agencies seeking to perform Special Inspections 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.

Class C HMO License Documentation

Dedicated to Safety

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.

Renewing General Contractor Registration

Information You Need To Know

[General contractors](#) seeking to [renew](#) their registration must schedule an appointment with the [Licensing Unit](#). Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and can be made by calling (212) 566-4100.

Did You Know?

Did you know that most sign installations in New York City must be performed by a licensed sign hanger? Unlike [Master Sign Hangers](#), [Special Sign Hangers](#) are limited in the size and weight of signs they are allowed to install. To ensure that Special Sign Hangers do not install signs in excess of what is permitted under their license, the Department has written a [Buildings Bulletin 2009-001](#) clarifying when a Special Sign Hanger may perform the installation.

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