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BUILDINGS NEWS

What's New

No-Penalty Retaining Wall Inspection Program



On Wednesday, March 25, 2009, Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri [launched](#) the Department's annual [No-Penalty Retaining Wall Inspection Program](#). Under this program, homeowners may call 3-1-1 to request an inspection of their retaining walls by a Buildings Inspector without penalty of violation. This program will be offered through June 1, 2009. As temperatures rise and the seasons change, retaining walls can become particularly susceptible to deterioration which can put nearby buildings at risk. To learn more about retaining walls, please view our [Retaining Walls maintenance guide](#).

Commissioner Testifies Before OSHA



Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri [testified](#) before the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, addressing proposed crane regulations that would rely on the industry's self-regulation. The proposed rules would deregulate the approximately 35 tower cranes and 250 mobile cranes that operate on New York City's streets each day by precluding Buildings Inspectors from

enforcing crane safety regulations on job sites. Crane regulation enforcement would fall to OSHA, which has no full-time staff dedicated to construction inspections in New York City. Following the two fatal crane accidents in New York City last year, Buildings enacted significant reforms to its oversight and regulation of cranes in New York City. These reforms would be pre-empted if the federal regulations are adopted in their current form.

Required Items Now Accepted Electronically

Information You Need To Know



The Department now allows applicants to submit [certain required items](#) electronically through a new on-line submission system known as eSubmit. Using an [eFiling](#) account, eSubmit provides applicants the opportunity to upload certain required items and supporting documents from home or the office instead of a borough office. We have created an eSubmit User [guide](#) to assist you with this new feature.

Emergency Work Guidelines

Dedicated to Safety

When an emergency or hazardous condition necessitates immediate attention to protect the public or workers, Licensed Master Plumbers, Fire Suppression Piping contractors and Oil Burner Installer contractors may repair the condition and then file a Limited Alteration Application ([LAA1](#)) for the work. The Department has established Emergency Work [guidelines](#) to ensure the proper steps are taken when performing emergency work.

Multiple Dwelling Law Provisions

Information You Need To Know

The Department has issued [Buildings Bulletin 2009-002](#) to clarify the Department's authority to waive or modify prescriptive provisions of the Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL) or import definitions of terms such as "height" and "story" from the building code into the MDL.

New Regulations for Façade Inspections

Information You Need To Know

[Amended Rule 32-03](#) related to the periodic inspection of exterior walls and appurtenances of buildings greater than six stories in height becomes effective March 27, 2009. There are several new key provisions in this rule, including the creation of staggered inspection cycles, new inspection deadlines, enhanced reporting requirements, notice of further penalties and filing fees and a new late filing penalty of \$250 per month.

New Fire Code Requirements

Dedicated to Safety

[FC 503.8.2](#) of the new [Fire Code](#) requires any new building located on a public street with a curb-to-curb width less than 38 feet to be protected throughout by a sprinkler system. Although existing buildings are generally exempt from compliance with this requirement, existing buildings that undergo "alteration" or a "change in use or occupancy" on or after July 1, 2008 may have to comply with this requirement. The Fire Department recently issued [interim guidelines](#) (See Question #3 of Chapter 5) to further define the types of alterations and changes in use or occupancy that are subject to FC 503.8.2. These will also be the subjects of future FDNY rulemaking. Until the issuance of such rules, the Department of Buildings will apply the [interim guidelines](#) for alteration applications.

Reminders

Class C HMO 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 Operators ([NCCCO](#)) by September 30, 2009. To learn more, view our Class C License [guide](#) and read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

New Safety Registration Numbers

Dedicated to Safety

Beginning October 1, 2009, individuals and organizations performing or supervising certain construction projects, including new building and demolition jobs, will be required to have a new [Safety Registration Number](#). The Department will begin accepting applications for Safety Registration Numbers in Spring 2009.

Revised B-SCAN Enhancement

Information You Need To Know



To ensure Buildings Department documents remain accessible, on March 16, 2009 we [enhanced](#) the Department's B-SCAN system to scan, capture and electronically store approved building plans. Effective March 23, 2009, all building plans must conform to specific

guidelines or the plans will not be approved.

Training & Workshops

LAA and OPW Information Session

Information You Need To Know



The Department is holding an [information session](#) on the Limited Alteration Application (LAA) and the Ordinary Plumbing Work (OPW) notifications. This workshop, which will be held over several days, will review the LAA filing procedures and Emergency Plumbing Work notification service changes. The session will be held from 11:00am to 2:00pm on:

Monday, April 20
 Wednesday, April 29
 Friday, May 1
 Monday, May 4

The session will be held at Department headquarters in Manhattan at 280 Broadway, in the 6th floor conference room. Seating is limited, and you are encouraged to register if you plan to attend this session. Please register by April 12, 2009 by emailing laa-pr@buildings.nyc.gov or faxing your registration to (212) 566-5823. Please also send any concerns, comments or questions that you would like addressed during the session.

Licensing Information Sessions

Information You Need To Know

In April and May, the Department will hold several [information sessions](#) to review the Department's licensing and registration requirements. These sessions will discuss the registration requirements for contractors, insurance tracking numbers and the new Safety Registration Number. The sessions will be held at Department headquarters in Manhattan at 280 Broadway, in the 6th floor conference room:

Monday, April 13	4:00pm to 6:0pm
Tuesday, April 14	9:30am to 11:30am
Tuesday, May 5	9:30am to 11:30am
Friday, May 22	4:30pm to 6:30pm

Reservations are required to attend these sessions, and seating is limited. To reserve a seat, email the date and time of the session you would like to attend along with your name and contact information to rsvplicensing@buildings.nyc.gov.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the New Codes include new safety inspections and filings, many of which require nightly inspections? The Department has created a guide summarizing the [nightly job site inspection requirements](#).

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

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