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BUILDINGS NEWS

What's New



All new construction must now comply with the [new NYC Construction Codes](#). The [implementation](#) of the new Codes fulfills Mayor Bloomberg's commitment to overhaul the City's construction codes and represents the first major overhaul in more than 40 years. Modeled after the International Building Code, the new NYC Construction Codes meet the needs of the City's dense urban environment by expanding sprinkler requirements for more buildings, increasing the width of stairwells in high-rise residential buildings, mandating emergency voice communication systems in more residential buildings, and reclassifying violations to focus enforcement efforts on problematic job sites.

Certain administrative provisions, enforcement provisions and construction safeguards under the new NYC Construction Codes are now in [effect](#).

Email any questions to operationsredesign@buildings.nyc.gov.

Tower Crane Partnership

Dedicated to Safety



The Department has formed a new [partnership](#) with the cities of Chicago and Philadelphia to share critical data on tower cranes erected within their borders. Announced June 12 by Commissioner LiMandri, this unprecedented information-sharing agreement will help each jurisdiction determine the history of a tower crane and whether it is safe to be operated.

Mayor Bloomberg Signs New Safety Laws

Dedicated to Safety



Photo Credit: Spencer Tucker

On June 29, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg signed five [bills](#) into law to improve safety at construction, demolition, and asbestos abatement sites across the City. The bills, Introductory Numbers [1001-A](#), [1002](#), [1003-A](#), [1005](#), and [1007](#), will establish the following: a permitting requirement for asbestos abatement jobs that pose the greatest risk to public safety; a requirement for DEP to promulgate rules giving guidance to contractors on how to maintain safe abatement

project sites; establish a procedure among DOB, FDNY and DEP to share information regarding building violations; and prohibit smoking on any floor where asbestos activity is taking place and at all construction sites. The new laws stem from a Working Group of city agencies convened by Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler to address issues following the tragic fire at 130 Liberty St. on August 18, 2007.

New Development Challenge Process

Information You Need To Know



Photo Credit: Andreanna Seymore

Beginning July 13, architects and engineers must submit [diagrams](#) that indicate the size and scale of all new building and major enlargement projects. These diagrams will be posted online, enabling public review and streamlining challenges to the Department. This [process](#) establishes an organized procedure to challenge the Department's zoning decisions. Email any questions to operationsredesign@buildings.nyc.gov.

Revised PW2 Form

Information You Need To Know

The Department has revised the [PW2 form](#) to require applicants to post permits in a visible location with three days of issuance. This new requirement is designed to make the public more aware of proposed developments and construction projects in their neighborhoods. The revised version must be used beginning July 13.

Wetland and Coastal Erosion Areas

Dedicated to Safety

Applicants seeking permits in Coastal and Water-Sensitive Inland zones must determine whether the proposed work is located within [Tidal Wetland](#), [Freshwater Wetland](#), or [Coastal](#)

[Erosion Hazard](#) areas. If so, additional [required items and approvals](#) from the New York State [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) (DEC) are now required. On July 1, following [Local Law 21 of 2009](#), the Department issued [Buildings Bulletin 2009-012](#) which establishes construction document submittal procedures for work in these areas.

Tax Abatement

Information You Need To Know



The Buildings Department implemented [rules](#) to support New York State laws providing property tax abatements for the installation of green roofs and solar electric-generating systems. To assist the public, the Department is developing a guide and instructions on how to file for these tax abatements.

Public Hearing

Information You Need To Know

On August 10, the Department will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to [Rule 102-01](#) regarding the classification of violations, establishment of daily and monthly penalties for certain violations, and processes for certifying correction. This hearing will be held at 3:00pm in the 6th floor Training Room at Department Headquarters at 280 Broadway in Manhattan.

Special Inspectors

Information You Need To Know

The deadline by which Special Inspectors must obtain all required certification to conduct inspections has been [extended](#) until after December 31. Keep reading Buildings News for more information.

Buildings Bulletins

Information You Need To Know

On June 15, the Department issued [Buildings Bulletin 2009-010](#) which clarifies the use of alternate material for temporary construction fences.

On June 30, the Department issued [Buildings Bulletin 2009-011](#) which clarifies the requirements for using existing structures to support the weight of concrete during placement.

Training & Workshops

Plumbing Information Sessions

Information You Need To Know



Throughout August, the Plumbing Unit is providing free informational sessions to help applicants with the plumbing filing process. All [information sessions](#) will be held in the 6th Floor Training Room at Department Headquarters at 280 Broadway in Manhattan.

Buildings Around Town

Assistant Commissioner to Speak at Fire Safety Forum



Photo Credit: Andreanna Seymore

Assistant Commissioner of Technical Affairs and Code Development James Colgate, RA, will moderate a panel on 9/11 World Trade Center evacuation studies at the [Fourth International Symposium on Human Behavior in Fire](#) conference in Cambridge, England. Assistant Commissioner Colgate is a leading specialist in high-rise building design and evacuation and the foremost City expert on the evacuations on 9/11. He has been with the Department since 1998, serving as Technical Code Coordinator and Executive Architect prior. Assistant Commissioner Colgate has been extensively involved

in the legislative initiatives adopted by New York City following the terrorist attacks. In 2007, the International Code Council [adopted](#) New York City's standard for photoluminescent path markings which was drafted by Assistant Commissioner Colgate. The symposium takes place July 13 – 15.

Reminder

Safety Training Requirement

Dedicated to Safety

All workers, including active trade workers, managers, foremen and project superintendents, working on "major buildings" (as defined by the 2008 Code) are [required](#) to have completed, within the last five years, a 10-hour course in construction safety approved by [OSHA](#) or an equivalent course approved by the Department. This training requirement does not apply to Registered Architects, Professional Engineers or Certified Safety Professionals. In addition, a statement must be made on all site safety plans that all workers employed at the site will receive a site-specific safety orientation program within seven days of employment.

[Enforcement](#) will apply to projects for which building permits are issued on and after July 1, 2009.

Did You Know?

Did you know that on June 25 the Department released a [comprehensive report](#) outlining 66 recommendations to improve the safety of cranes and hoists, excavation and concrete operations? These recommendations were developed during an unprecedented [\\$4 million study](#) of high-risk construction launched last year in response to an increase in construction-related accidents.

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