



NYC.gov NEWS

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## BUILDINGS NEWS

### What's New

#### License Suspension and \$100,000 Fine for Electrician



Under the NYC Electrical Code, metal, insulated collars (left) should be used to support electrical cables in high-rise buildings, not wooden chocks that Electrical inspectors found at five sites in Manhattan.

The Department has suspended the license of Master Electrician Robert Spallino and fined him \$100,000 after determining he installed cheap, illegal wooden parts inside the electrical systems of five high-rise hotels in midtown Manhattan.

Upon a routine inspection, DOB's Electrical Unit first discovered Spallino and his employees used the pieces of carved wood at 37 West 24th Street, creating a serious fire safety hazard at the 21-story building. The wooden chocks were

used to support electrical cables instead of the metal, insulated collars required by the Electrical Code.

After further investigation, Electrical Inspectors found similar work at four nearby hotel construction sites.

Inspectors stopped work immediately at each location and required the property owners to install the metal collars and hire a licensed engineer to test the integrity of the cables. All of the work has since been corrected.

"New Yorkers depend on the construction industry to perform safe work that is in accordance with the law," said Buildings Commissioner Robert LiMandri. "It is disturbing to learn of a licensed professional who disregarded the safety of the public for a profit."

As a result of the inspections, Department attorneys filed administrative charges against Spallino, which led to a one-year license suspension and the \$100,000 fine.

For the next eight months, Spallino will be on a probationary period to complete any active projects and correct any open violations before his license suspension takes effect. All of his work will be closely monitored by the Department.

Following the year-long suspension, he will enter a two-year probationary period during which all of his work will be subject to Department review.

"I would like to commend our inspectorial and legal units for preventing a potential catastrophe from occurring," said Commissioner LiMandri. "This sends a strong message to the industry that this type of shoddy work will not be tolerated."

The actions taken against Spallino were led by the Department's Special Enforcement Team, a unit of attorneys, plan examiners, inspectors and support staff that identifies professionals, building owners and contractors who blatantly disregard the law. Created in 2007, the unit researches offenders' networks and patterns, builds cases for prosecution and refers licensed and registered professionals to the State for discipline.

## Development Coordinator Initiative

### Information You Need To Know

The Mayor's Office has introduced the [Development Coordinator Initiative](#) to reduce the policy and jurisdictional conflicts that can delay private developments. This [initiative](#) seeks to increase interagency coordination to resolve issues more efficiently. The program is being piloted in Brooklyn through August 30 and will be expanded thereafter.

## After-Hours Variance Requests

### Dedicated to Safety

Applicants may now use one application to [apply](#) for multiple after-hours variances as long as the scope and schedule of the proposed work is the same and the work does not span more than 14 days. The Department has revised the [PW5 form](#) to support this change.

## New HMO Class C License Cards

### Information You Need To Know



The Department is now issuing a [new license card](#) for all Class C Hoist Machine Operator licenses. Department inspectors and staff will continue to accept the existing cards until their expiration date.

## Public Hearing

### Information You Need To Know

On August 27, the Department will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the [National Fire Protection Association, Flammable Combustible Code Edition](#). The hearing will be held at 3:00pm in the 6th floor training room at Department headquarters at 280 Broadway in Manhattan.

## Reminders

### Site Safety Requirements

#### Dedicated to Safety

Under [Local Law 41 of 2008](#), workers performing construction work at major buildings are required to [complete](#) a 10-hour course in construction safety approved by [OSHA](#) or an equivalent course approved by the Department.

### Revised PW2 Form

#### Information You Need To Know

Applicants must now use the revised version of the [PW2 form](#) which requires permits to be posted in a visible location within three days of issuance.

### Notification of Earthwork

#### Dedicated to Safety



Contractors must [notify](#) the Department 24 to 48 hours prior to beginning excavation or earthwork. Those who fail to do so are subject to violations and Stop Work Orders.

### New Development Challenge Process

#### Information You Need To Know



Architects and engineers must now submit [diagrams](#) that indicate the size and scale of all new building and enlargement projects. These diagrams can be viewed online using [BISWeb](#) or [MyCommunity](#). The Department has also streamlined the procedure for challenging zoning decisions.

### Concrete Formwork Requirements

#### Information You Need To Know

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

### Special Inspectors

#### Information You Need To Know

The deadline by which Special Inspectors must obtain all required nationally recognized certificates to conduct inspections has been [extended](#) until after December 31.

### Concrete Manager Registration Extended

#### Information You Need To Know

The Department has [postponed](#) the registration program for [Concrete Safety Managers](#) until after November 1.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that the Plumbing Unit is hosting six [information sessions](#) in August to help people with the plumbing filing process? All sessions will be held in the 6th floor conference room at Department headquarters at 280 Broadway in Manhattan.

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