



BUILDINGS **2026-004** **BULLETIN** OTCR

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PURPOSE: This document provides guidance for software-powered real-time location systems as an option for satisfying specific NYC Building Code requirements and regulations.

SUBJECT(S): Innovation Challenge, Real-time location software, Worker safety, Incident reporting, Safety meetings

RELATED CODE SECTION: BC 3301

I. INNOVATION CHALLENGE COMPETITION

In 2021, the NYC Department of Buildings launched the **Hack the Building Code Innovation Challenge** competition. The competition sought ideas for modernizing the construction process by improving buildings and keeping a safe work site and adjoining buildings. The Department's website provides a [list of the winning technologies](#).

One of the competition's winning technologies is a software-powered real-time location system for monitoring construction-related activities. This software-powered real-time location system may be used as an option for satisfying NYC Building Code requirements and regulations identified in this bulletin and is designed to improve worker safety by delivering safety alerts and allowing for remote recordkeeping.

II. BACKGROUND

Software-powered real-time location systems are not addressed in the building code. Furthermore, there is no prohibition on their use. However, the use of a software-powered real-time location system does not alleviate the need to comply with the Building Code, including but not limited to recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

III. DESCRIPTION

Software-powered real-time location systems use smart wearable devices, video monitoring, and/or environmental sensors, along with central software to address workforce and environmental safety at construction jobsites. The software-powered real-time location systems subject to this bulletin use smart wearable devices.

IV. USES

Software-powered real-time location systems are used to address workforce safety at construction jobsites. This Bulletin addresses the use of software-powered real-time location systems for the following site safety tasks:

1. reporting of incidents that results in injuries and/or fatalities.
2. recording and reporting pre-shift site-safety meetings in accordance with **Buildings Bulletin 2024-007**.

Some software-powered real-time location systems not addressed in the Innovation Challenge may include additional features such as employee visibility, geofencing, and hazard notifications. The use of additional features must be approved.

The implementation of a real-time location system shall not supersede Building Code compliance, specifically regarding supervision, recordkeeping, and reporting obligations, nor shall it relieve responsible parties of their mandated duties.

V. GUIDANCE & LIMITATIONS

1. Reporting Injuries & Fatalities

Software-powered real-time location systems provide alerts when the wearable device detects a potential fall. A responsible party at the construction site, including but not limited to a representative of the owner or contractor, must evaluate each detected incident prior to reporting to the Department to verify such incident is reportable, in accordance with Item 7 of BC 3310.8.4.

Entities identified in the Building Code as being responsible for reporting incidents, such as injuries, to the Department shall maintain reporting responsibilities.

2. Reporting Site Safety Meetings

- **Recording of pre-shift safety meetings.** BC 3301.12 requires a competent person, designated by the permit holder or subcontractor, to maintain signed records of each pre-shift safety meeting. Software-powered real-time location systems may be used to automatically register attendance and create a record of pre-shift safety meetings. A digital signature of a competent person may be used to satisfy Building Code requirements.
- **Limited use of software-powered real-time location systems.** The use of software-powered real-time location systems shall not be used as a substitute for conducting pre-shift safety meetings.