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BUILDINGS NEWS

What's New

Special Inspections Under the New Codes



Under the New [NYC Construction Codes](#), Special Inspections replace Controlled Inspections for all construction projects filed on or after July 1, 2008. Registration for the Special Inspection Agency program will be rolled out in Spring 2009, allowing agencies to electronically register with the Department. Beginning July 1, 2010, Special Inspection Agencies must be accredited by the [International Accreditation Service, Inc.](#) (IAS) or an equivalent accreditation agency accrediting to ASTM E329-07 international standards. At that time, [Special Inspections](#) (PDF) may only be performed by Special Inspectors working for a Buildings Department-approved Special Inspection Agency. IAS is now accepting applications for accreditation.

Guidelines for Making Plan Examination Appointments

Information You Need To Know

To make scheduling plan examination appointments easier, the Buildings Department's Plan Exam Notification System (PENS) validates job information before the appointment is scheduled. To assist with PENS, we have created [guidelines](#) (PDF) that include information about how to register as well as how to schedule and cancel appointments.

Penalties for Tower Crane Operators Involved in Fatal Accident

Dedicated to Safety

On November 13, Commissioner LiMandri [announced](#) that administrative penalties were imposed in a disciplinary case brought against two tower crane operators involved in a construction fatality at 600 West 42nd Street. On September 4, 2008, a worker at the site fell from a platform attached to the tower crane that was being dismantled. Christopher Van Duyne

will be subject to an eight-month suspension of his Class B HMO license, and his brother, James Van Duynes, will be subject to a six-month suspension of his Class B HMO license. Each individual also must pay a total of \$25,000 to the Department and is required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of Department-approved training before the suspension period ends.

Requirements for Refuse Chutes in Hotels

Dedicated to Safety

On November 14, the Department issued [Buildings Bulletin - 2008-010](#) (PDF) which clarifies when a refuse chute may be omitted from a hotel. Refuse chutes are required in certain multiple dwellings under the 1968 and 2008 building codes. The bulletin clarifies what conditions a transient hotel with daily cleaning services must meet to be exempt from this requirement. For more [Buildings Bulletins](#), visit the [Reference Materials](#) section of our website.

Licensing Applications Online

Making it Easier

The new [LIC1](#) (Original Licensing Application) and [LIC2](#) (Renewal Application) are now online. As of January 1, 2009 this will be the only version accepted by the Department.

Buildings Around Town

New NYC Construction Codes Event



Deputy Commissioner Phyllis Arnold will discuss the New NYC Construction Codes at an event hosted by the [Center for New York City Law](#) on December 2, 2008. Registration is required for the event. Please view the [flyer](#) for more information.

Department Hosts Elevator & Escalator Safety Classes

On November 14 and 15, the Buildings Department hosted safety classes for first and second graders across the City as part of [National Elevator-Escalator Safety Awareness week](#). Inspectors from the Buildings Department Elevator Unit delivered presentations on elevator and escalator safety in Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx. The Department has participated in National Elevator-Escalator Safety Awareness Week for the past six years, teaching more than 3,000 students about elevator and escalator safety.

Reminders

Executive Staff Reorganization

Information You Need To Know

The Department's [Executive Staff reorganization](#) became effective November 17. As part of the reorganization, four of the five Borough Commissioners have been reassigned to new boroughs, one has been given a new leadership post within the Department and the Deputy Brooklyn Borough Commissioner has been assigned to fill the open position.

New Boiler Annual Inspection Cycle

Information You Need To Know

On January 1, 2009, a [new boiler annual inspection cycle](#) (PDF) will become effective. To accommodate the new cycle, the 2009 inspection cycle will be a shortened inspection year.

New Requirements for Elevator Inspections

Information You Need To Know

With the implementation of the New NYC Construction Codes, the Department has [enhanced the inspection and filing requirements for elevators](#) (pdf). These new requirements will become effective January 1, 2009.

The New NYC Construction Codes and the TR1

Information You Need To Know

If your job was at approved status as of June 30, 2008, the permits for the job must be pulled before January 1, 2009 otherwise the "2008 TR1 Required" item (prior-to-permit) and 2008 Code Special and Progress Inspections will be required. View our New NYC Construction Codes Filing [Guidelines](#) (PDF) for more information.

License Term and Fee Changes

Information You Need To Know

All Master and Special Rigger, Master and Special Sign Hanger and Tower Crane Rigger licenses will be extended to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2009. The fees for certain license types have also changed. For more information, view the License Term and Fee Changes [fact sheet](#) (PDF).

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Department of Buildings' main database, the [Buildings Information System](#) (BIS) has been in use since 1984? Users are able to check property profile information, complaint and violation history, as well as many other things. BIS gets approximately 500,000 views per day!

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