



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR
CHARGED WITH FALSIFYING ASBESTOS-INSPECTION RECORDS**
***Forty-count indictment involves three building alterations in Queens
and an application for certification as an asbestos investigator***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SATROGHAUN "RAVI" SINGH, a home improvement contractor, on felony charges of falsifying asbestos-investigation reports for three building-extensions in Queens and a license application for his own certification as an asbestos investigator. SINGH is charged with forging the signature and official seal of a former Certified Asbestos Investigator on three reports, known as "ACP 5s," filed with two City agencies, the Department of Buildings ("DOB") and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), stating that no asbestos was found at the job sites, and, in a separate filing with DEP, falsely claiming that the same former investigator had trained SINGH in how to conduct asbestos investigations.

A 40-count indictment obtained by the office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown charges that SINGH falsified the records between November 2007 and March 2008. DOI investigators arrested SINGH on August 27, 2008.

SINGH, 32, of Jamaica, N.Y. is charged with six counts of Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony, seven counts each of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both class E felonies, and 20 related misdemeanor counts. A class D felony is punishable on conviction by up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "A contractor is charged with fabricating required asbestos inspections and falsely claiming that the bogus inspections qualified him for certification as an asbestos investigator. Committing fraud in matters involving public safety is a sure way to put oneself squarely in DOI's sights and to face serious consequences, including arrest and possible prison time. I want to thank Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown for his office's professional commitment to enforcing the laws involving construction safety."

The investigation stemmed from an anonymous tip to DOI that a former Certified Asbestos Investigator who had previously surrendered his certification to DEP was improperly inspecting construction sites in Queens. DOI's investigation revealed that the former inspector was out of the country when two inspections reportedly were conducted and that SINGH, his former client, had allegedly used a scanned a copy of the former investigator's seal and forged the former investigator's signature on three ACP-5 forms filed with

DOB. That kind of form is supposed to signify that a Certified Asbestos Investigator examined the site, sampled and arranged for testing the material as appropriate, and found no asbestos, thus allowing a DOB permit to be obtained for construction.

DOI's investigation also revealed that SINGH falsified his job experience in his own application as a prospective Certified Asbestos Investigator, filed with DEP in March 2008, by listing jobs in which he reportedly worked under the former investigator's direction, including two of the inspections he is charged with fabricating.

The investigation was conducted by Michael Carroll, DOI's Inspector General for DOB, and James McElligott, Chief Investigator in that office.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and her staff for their assistance in the investigation.

The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Andrew Kaufman of the Special Proceedings Bureau.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**