



# Commercial Kitchen Exhaust System Meeting

March 26, 2019

**NYC**

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

**FDNY**

Daniel A. Nigro  
Commissioner

# Speakers



## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Deputy Assistant Chief, John Buckheit

## 2. DECAL PROGRAM ROLLOUT:

Executive Director of Licensing, Steve Ertrachter

## 3. CODE DEVELOPMENT:

Fire Code Counsel, Julian Bazel

## 4. TECHNICAL:

Chief Inspector, David Franco

# Opening Remarks



DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF  
John Buckheit



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LICENSING

Steve Ertrachter



# Decal Program

# Decal



17  
16 18  
15 19  
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2 31  
1

THIS EXHAUST SYSTEM  
HAS BEEN CLEANED AS REQUIRED  
BY NYC FIRE CODE 609.4.1 AND  
**MUST BE RE-SERVICED WITHIN 90 DAYS**  
FROM THE DATE PUNCHED  
PROOF OF COMPLIANCE FOR USE BY CERTIFIED  
COMMERCIAL COOKING EXHAUST SYSTEM COMPANY

John Smith  
12345678

Commercial Cooking  
Equipment Guru Inc.

Company Commercial Cooking Equipment Group Inc.  
DBA \_\_\_\_\_  
NYC LIC # \_\_\_\_\_ 999  
Address 999 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
Phone Number 999-999-9999

PUNCH HERE IF  
PRECIPITATOR/  
POLLUTION CONTROL  
IS PRESENT

JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	2016	2019	2020
FEB	MAY	AUG	NOV			
MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC			

Peel here after punching

Unauthorized posting is a crime punishable by fine and/or imprisonment

PUBLIC USE: Scan to  
check company info.

- **NEW!** Orders that are placed from April, will have years 2019, 2020, and 2021!

# Data



- Between June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019:
  - 320,000 DECALS ordered
  - Each order consisted of 2000 DECALS or more
  - 879 COF stamps



# Program Benefits

- SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM FDNY HAS:
  - Received more company applications than the previous year.
  - Last year: FDNY had a total of 17 new companies total for the calendar year
  - This year: From January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> we have already received 11 new companies



# Program Benefits



- Dedicated staff who is in constant contact with companies and decal manufacturer:
  - Waiting period for approvals has been reduced to 1-3 days from 2-4 weeks

# Program Benefits



- FDNY has been able to minimize or end business operations of companies who have lost FDNY recognition
- Reduced fraud and illegal activities
  - Inspectors and field units are able to more easily recognize legitimate companies from illegal companies
  - FDNY has identified several possible fraudulent companies and technicians under active investigation

# Improper Transfer of Decals



- Transfer of Rangehood Decals from one person or company to another is prohibited
  - Any transfer of your decals is illegal
  - If anyone wants your rangehood decals, please report it to FDNY **immediately**:  
[Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov)

# Company Renewals Tips



## Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Companies should do the following:

- Application
  - Submit renewal application (from FDNY website) and required documents
  - List every employee at the company on the application
  - Submit the \$50 application renewal payment
  - Every company needs a minimum of at least 1 principal and 1 employee (both need a valid COF)

# Company Renewals Tips



Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Companies should have:

## ■ Insurance

- Company insurance has to be A- or better
- Insurance has to be current, if insurance is expiring company must send an updated copy of the policy
- Insurance issuance date must be within 30 days
- FDNY has to be the certificate holder (listed on the insurance)
- P.O. Boxes are unacceptable

# Company Employees



- Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Employees must have W-64/P-64 Certificate of Fitness
  - Every employee (**including helpers**) that are on-site must have a valid W-64/P-64 Certificate of Fitness.
  - FDNY allows COF applicants to bring foreign language dictionary for test taking purposes.

# Certification of Fitness Stamp



- Every employee performing the servicing must have their own COF stamp
  - Only 1 COF stamp is required to be applied at a work site;
  - If decal does NOT have the COF stamp, the decal will be deemed non-compliant;
  - Typically, the COF stamps are produced and arrive much quicker than Decals.
  - COF Stamp price is the same during bulk and on-demand period.

# Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Vehicles



- Pursuant to Fire Department Company Certificates Rule, **3 RCNY § 115-01** (d)(9)(D) : “The company shall possess all tools, materials and equipment required to safely clean and service commercial cooking exhaust systems, including ladders, lighting equipment, scraping and washing equipment, cleaning materials, and vehicle(s) marked with the company name and company certificate number.”
- The vehicle compliance going into effect June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019



# Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Vehicles



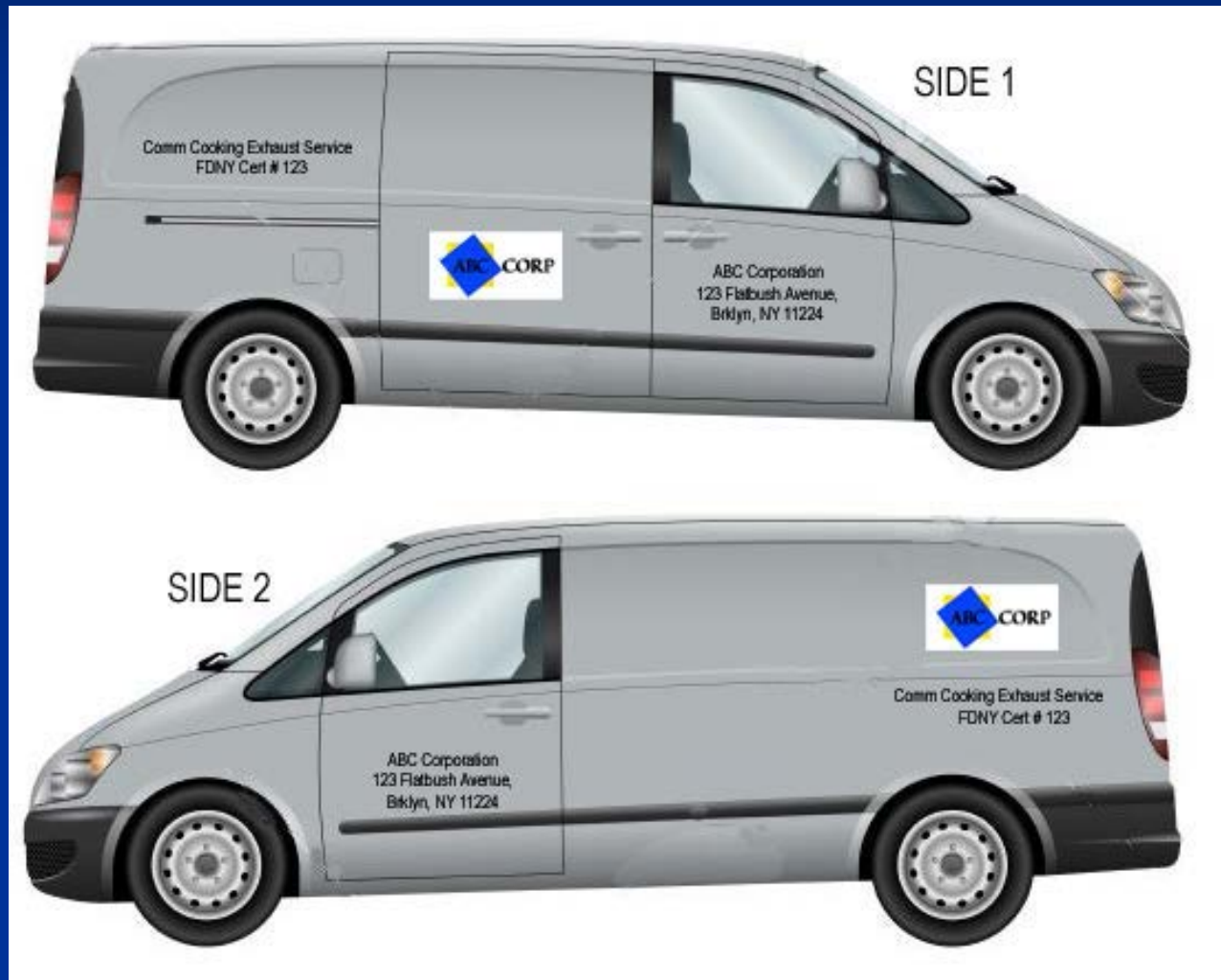
- ALL Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company vehicles MUST display the following information on both sides of their company vehicle:
  - Full Company name as recognized by the FDNY
  - Complete company business address
  - “COMMERCIAL COOKING EXHAUST SYSTEM SERVICING COMPANY”, which may be abbreviated to “Comm Cooking Exhaust Service”.
  - “FDNY Certificate #” (FDNY approved company list number).

# Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Vehicles



- Information shall be permanently and conspicuously marked (magnetic signs are not acceptable);
- Size of characters must be at least 3 inches in height;
- In **contrasting** color with that of the vehicle.

# Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Vehicles



# Sample Company Vehicle





# Company Vehicle Q&A



## ■ Can I use a mini van, such as Honda Odyssey or similar? Does the vehicle need to be a of certain size? (R)

- As long as the vehicle can fit all the required equipment to perform the work, its allowed. However, based on the NYS DMV requirements, the vehicle needs to be modified to be commercial:
- <https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/vehicle-modifications-and-registration-class>

# Company Vehicle Q&A



## ■ Does the vehicle need to have a commercial license plate and commercial insurance? (R)

- In New York State, vehicles used for the commercial purposes need a Commercial Vehicle Registration. Since the vehicle will be used by a company holding FDNY Company Certificate for commercial purposes, the vehicle is commercial and required the commercial registration.
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/description/commercial-vehicle-registration>

# Company Vehicle Q&A



- **If I have Fire Department Certificates for 2 separate Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing Companies, must they both be marked on the commercial vehicle?**
  - YES, if the vehicle(s) is being used for both businesses, you must display the two FDNY certificate numbers (and any other applicable information).

# Company Vehicle Q&A



- **Can I use my personal vehicles to conduct Commercial Cooking Exhaust System servicing? (R)**
  - NO, all Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing activities must be conducted with a company approved vehicle in accordance with FDNY requirements.



# Company Vehicle Q&A



## ■ Do the markings on the commercial vehicles need to be removed if I am no longer using the vehicle(s) for business or if I get out of the Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing business?

- YES, the markings must be removed from any vehicles that are not being used for Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing activities.
- FDNY needs to be notified about this in writing.

# Company Vehicle Q&A



- **Does the Fire Department need proof that your Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing vehicle is compliant with vehicle marking requirements?**
  - YES, submit the photos of both sides of the vehicle to FDNY Public Certification Unit at [Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov).
  - The deadline to submit picture is May 15th, 2019, however in case corrections are required to be made submit the proof earlier.

# Company Vehicle Q&A



- **What happens if the Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing Company does NOT comply with commercial vehicle requirements?**
  - Your company certificate may be suspended and you will not be able to conduct business starting June 1<sup>st</sup> and until everything is in compliance.

# Non-Compliance Decals



- FDNY is working with manufacturer to create and manufacture non-compliance decals.
- Non-Compliant decal proposed language is:
  - “This exhaust system was NOT cleaned or serviced as required by the NYC Fire Code section 609.4.1. This condition is a hazard. FDNY has been notified of this system’s Non Compliant status. System must be corrected immediately.”

# Proposed Non-Compliance Decal



The non-compliance decal will be similar to compliant decal, however the information on it will be different.

They will be valid for 3 years. 2021 will be added.

**NON-COMPLIANT**

This exhaust system was NOT cleaned or serviced as required by the NYC Fire Code section 609.4.1. This condition is a hazard. FDNY has been notified of this system's Non Compliant status. System must be corrected immediately.

5 Name \_\_\_\_\_

4 LIC# \_\_\_\_\_

3 Company \_\_\_\_\_

2 Service Company Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

1 NYC LIC# \_\_\_\_\_

Premises Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	2019	2020
FEB	MAY	AUG	NOV		
MAR	JUN	SEP	DEC		

Peel here after punching

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# Mobile App



- **NEW!** FDNY is working on building an innovative and efficient mobile application for reporting servicing.
- Work in progress – updates coming in few weeks!



# Mobile App

- **Development** of the application would be completely paid for by the FDNY
- **Maintenance** of the application still to be determined
- FDNY is currently looking for 5-7 Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning companies to participate in a focus group
- Anyone interested companies let us know by April 1<sup>st</sup>, via e-mail: [Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov)

# Company Penalties For Violations



## Suspension:

- Companies and COFs
  - Suspension of Company Recognition

## Revocation:

- Companies and COFs
  - Revocation of Company Recognition

## Decal purchase rights:

- If the company is suspended/revoked or if insurance is expired, the decal and COF stamp ordering is NOT allowed.
- The remaining supply of decals & COF stamps must also be returned to FDNY





# 2019 Decal Order and Delivery Schedule

# Order and Delivery Schedule



JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

TYPE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY
BULK ORDERING PERIOD	APPROXIMATELY 3 MONTHS
ON DEMAND	APPROXIMATELY 6 WEEKS



# FIRE CODE COUNSEL

Julian Bazel



# Code Development

# Frequency of Cleanings



- How frequently do commercial cooking exhaust duct systems need to be cleaned?



# Recent Grease Fires

- There has been an increase in serious commercial kitchen duct fires caused by grease and accumulation around the city.
- Duct fires in food establishments as a result of grease accumulation affect not only the food establishment, but the building above and neighboring buildings.

# Fire Code Inspection/ Cleaning Requirements



- 609.4.1 Exhaust system inspection and cleaning. The Fire Code requires the entire exhaust system be inspected and cleaned at least once every 3 months by a person holding a certificate of fitness.
- Surfaces shall be cleaned to bare metal.

# Fire Code Inspection/ Cleaning Requirements



- There are 2 exceptions to the rule:
  - Commercial cooking equipment utilizing solid fuel shall be inspected monthly by a trained and knowledgeable person, and cleaned by a certificate of fitness holder as necessary but not less frequently than once every 3 months.
  - Vertical portions of interior and exterior vertical ducts in excess of three stories in height shall be cleaned at least every 6 months by a person holding a certificate of fitness. Horizontal portions of such ducts, including all elbows, shall be inspected and cleaned in accordance with this section.



# How Often is Cleaning Needed?



- **Light cooking?**

- Example: Breakfast grill

- **Modest cooking?**

- Example: Deli

- **Heavy cooking?**

- Examples: Burger restaurant, fast-food establishment, meat grilling/roisserie, frying/cooking in oil.

- **Precipitators**

- Based on the type of cooking and/or design of the precipitator?

# How Often is Cleaning Needed?



- Section A.11.6.2 of NFPA 96-2014 and Section 9.1.3 of ANSI/IKECA Standard C10-2011) uses a depth gauge comb, to measure the amount of grease build-up.
- The depth gauge comb recommends cleaning of the ducts and fans when there is grease build-up of as little as **one-thirteenth inch (.078")**, and deems a grease build-up of **one-eighth inch (.125")** to require immediate cleaning.
- Is this a reasonable standard?



# How Often is Cleaning Needed?





# CHIEF INSPECTOR

## David Franco



# Technical Requirements



# Technical Requirements

- Responsibilities
- Liabilities
- Expectations
- Penalties
- Contact Information





# Technical Requirements

## ■ Responsibilities

### Check for:

- Leaks, seams, joints, access panels, signage, fans and proper insulation

# Technical Requirements



## ■ Liabilities

- Legal issues
- FDNY summonses to business owners





# Technical Requirements

- Expectations
  - Complete servicing of the entire exhaust system

# Technical Requirements



## ■ Penalties

- Potential suspension,
- Loss of Certificate of Fitness and ability to do business in NYC
- Loss of Revenue

# Technical Requirements



- Any report of deficiencies should be accompanied by photographs and forwarded to FDNY's Rangehood Unit (within 5 days):

[Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov)

- Rangehood Unit Contact Information:

Palacios, Jose M. - [JoseM.Palacios@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:JoseM.Palacios@fdny.nyc.gov)

Prokipchuk, Fred - [Fred.Prokipchuk@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Fred.Prokipchuk@fdny.nyc.gov)

Mendez, Glenn - [Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov)



# Q&A



# Q&A House Rules

- Please raise your hand
- Please speak when microphone is in your hand (so everyone can hear);
- State your name and company before your question;
- Keep questions short and to the point;
- Please limit 1 question per person.



# Comments?

- Follow-up, questions and suggestions:
  - Focus group and/or non-compliance decals
  - E-mail to us: [tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov)