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## An Update on Integrated Pest Management in New York City for 2014

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In May 2005, Local Law 37 (introduced by the New York City Council as Intro 329) was signed into law. Local Law 37 (LL37) established a number of requirements related to the use of pesticides on New York City-owned or leased properties with the overall goal of reducing the City's use of hazardous pesticides and promoting the use of safer and more effective pest control practices; an approach, known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). One of LL37's requirements is that City Agencies through the DOHMH submit an IPM report in January of each year to the Mayor and New York City Council. This report for calendar year 2014 is the ninth annual report submitted to fulfill this requirement and to describe compliance with LL37 and the evolving pest control practices of several agencies.

### **BACKGROUND**

Local law 37 requires that the City of New York discontinue the use of pesticides with active ingredients that EPA and the State of California consider to be potential carcinogens or reproductive hazards. Certain pesticides are exempted due to their low potential for exposure or harm or because of public health necessity. A waiver procedure was established that allows the Health Department to grant further individual exemptions under certain conditions. Posting notices to building occupants twenty-four hours prior to pesticide applications is required as well as new, more detailed record keeping and reporting provisions. The passage of LL37 prompted city agencies to critically review pest management and pesticide use on city-owned and leased properties. Since LL37's enactment there have been a number of major reforms to citywide pest control practices and the local law has encouraged agencies to make pesticide use reduction an ongoing pursuit.

New York City agencies address a wide variety of pest control issues in a large number of settings – residential units, institutional settings, parks, schools, offices, highway medians, hospitals, and vacant lots. Agencies continue to develop pest management strategies around IPM, which focuses primarily on eliminating or controlling the underlying conditions that are conducive to pest infestation. IPM approaches include structural and behavioral modification to deny pests the necessities- food, water, means of entry and harborage – that they need to survive. At the same time, “pest-proofing” upgrades the overall structural conditions of housing and workplaces. When physical improvements alone are not enough to address infestation, IPM also encompasses the judicious use of least hazardous pesticides –

























