NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

# Limiting Nighttime Illumination of City-owned and Occupied Spaces

*Local Law 30 (2022)*

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# Introduction

On January 15, 2022, Local Law 30 of 2022 was enacted, requiring the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to install occupancy sensors to limit nighttime illumination of city-owned spaces.

# Overview

“Covered building” means a building that is under the jurisdiction and management of DCAS. Covered building shall not include either high-occupancy buildings or critical facilities for which such occupancy sensor requirements shall not apply.

“Covered space” means space that is located within a city-owned building that is under the jurisdiction and management of DCAS and which is required to comply with the occupancy sensor requirements of section C405.2 of the New York City Energy Conservation Code.

> *Per Section C501.6 of the Energy Conservation Code relating to existing buildings, such buildings listed or eligible for listing in either the New York State Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Places are exempt from the requirements of the Energy Conservation Code.*

“Compliant building” means a building in which all covered spaces comply with the occupancy sensor requirements of section C405.2 of the New York City Energy Conservation Code for new construction.

Existing covered spaces shall comply with the occupancy sensor installation requirements of section C405.2 of the New York City Energy Conservation Code for new construction as follows:

1. By January 1, 2023, at least 25% of covered buildings.
2. By January 1, 2025, at least 50% of covered buildings.
3. By January 1, 2027, at least 75% of covered buildings.
4. By January 1, 2030, all remaining covered buildings.

> *In the DCAS Portfolio, 25 buildings are listed or eligible for listing in either the New York State Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Places and are not included in the definition of “covered”. While energy code-defined alteration projects in historic buildings generally require additional time in order to comply with regulations associated with their historic status, DCAS is nonetheless pursuing projects to install occupancy light sensors in those buildings.*

# Section C405.2 of the Energy Conservation Code

This section of the energy code requires newly constructed buildings to include lighting control systems in the following types of spaces:

1. Classrooms/lecture/training rooms
2. Conference/meeting/multipurpose rooms
3. Copy/print rooms
4. Lounges/breakrooms
5. Enclosed offices
6. Restrooms
7. Storage rooms
8. Locker rooms
9. Other spaces 300 square feet or less that are enclosed by floor-to-ceiling height partitions.
10. Warehouse storage areas
11. Janitorial closets
12. Corridors/transition areas
13. Cafeteria and fast-food dining areas

Lighting controls are not required for the following:

1. Areas designated as security or emergency areas that are required to be continuously lit.
2. Interior exit stairways, interior exit ramps, and exit passageways, as defined by the *New York City Building Code.*
3. Emergency egress lighting that is normally off.

For open-plan office areas greater than or equal to 300 square feet, occupant sensor controls shall comply with the following:

1. The controls shall be configured so that general lighting can be controlled separately in control zones with floor areas not greater than 600 square feet within the open plan office space.
2. The controls shall automatically turn off general lighting in all control zones within 15 minutes after all occupants have left the open plan office space.

3. The controls shall be configured so that the general lighting power in each control zone is reduced by not less than 80 percent of the full zone general lighting power in a reasonably uniform illumination pattern within 15 minutes of all occupants leaving that control zone. Control functions that switch control zone lights completely off when the zone is vacant meet this requirement.

4. The controls shall be configured such that any daylight responsive control will activate open-plan office space general lighting or control zone general lighting only when occupancy for the same area is detected.

For warehouses, the lighting in aisleways and open areas shall be controlled with occupant sensors that automatically reduce lighting power by not more than 50 percent when the areas are unoccupied. The occupant sensors shall control lighting in each aisleway independently and shall not control lighting beyond the aisleway being controlled by the sensor.

For all other types of spaces listed above, occupant sensor controls shall comply with the following:

1. They shall automatically turn off lighting within 15 minutes after all occupants have left the space.

2. They shall be manual-on or controlled to automatically turn on the lighting to not more than 50 percent power.

   Exceptions:

   1. Full, automatic-on controls shall be permitted to control lighting in public corridors, stairways, restrooms, primary building entrance areas and lobbies, and areas where manual-on operations would endanger the safety or security of the room or building occupants.

   2. Manual-on controls shall be required for classrooms, conference/ meeting rooms, employee lunch and break rooms, and offices smaller than 200 square feet in area. Such sensors and controls shall not have an override switch that converts from manual-on to automatic-on functionality and may have a grace period of up to 30 seconds to turn on the lighting automatically after the sensor has turned off the lighting if occupancy is detected.

3. They shall incorporate a manual control to allow occupants to turn off lights.

   Exception: Remote location of this local control device or devices shall be permitted for reasons of safety or security when each remote-control device has an indicator pilot light as part of or next to the control device and the light is clearly labeled to identify the controlled lighting.

# Reporting Requirements

By January 1, 2024, and every third year thereafter until 2030, DCAS is required to report the following information:

1. The number of covered buildings as of the end of the previous three calendar years;
2. The number of compliant buildings and the percentage of covered buildings that are compliant as of the end of the previous three calendar years; and
3. The number of buildings that became compliant buildings during the previous three calendar years.

# Reporting

| | Total Number of Covered Buildings as of End of Calendar Year | Total Number of Compliant Buildings as of End of Calendar Year | Total % of Compliant Buildings as of End of Calendar Year | Number of Buildings Brought into Compliance as of End of Calendar Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2021** | 24 | 2 | 8.3% | 2 |
| **2022** | 24 | 4 | 20.8% | 3 |
| **2023** | 24 | 6 | 25% | 1 |

In support of the goals of the law, DCAS has pursued installation of occupancy light sensors in the portfolio of historic buildings.

| | Total Number of Historic Buildings as of End of Calendar Year | Total Number of Historic Buildings with occupancy light sensors as of End of Calendar Year | Total % of Historic Buildings with occupancy light sensors as of End of Calendar Year | Number of Historic Buildings with occupancy light sensors installed as of End of Calendar Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2021** | 25 | 4 | 16% | 4 |
| **2022** | 25 | 6 | 24% | 2 |
| **2023** | 25* | 6 | 24% | 0 |

*Jurisdiction of 111 Canal Street in Staten Island was transferred to Parks in October 2023; however, the historic building was upgraded with occupancy light sensors by DCAS

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