

For Immediate Release
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Buildings Commissioner Rick Chandler Announces Chapter 33 Trainings in Preparation of 2014 Construction Code Launch

DOB Experts Lead Training Sessions to Educate Industry Professionals, Build Public Awareness

Buildings Commissioner Rick Chandler today launched the first of four training sessions to provide members of the construction industry with a working knowledge of new provisions in Chapter 33 of the 2014 Construction Codes, and to encourage awareness among the public about ongoing efforts by the Department to promote public safety of New Yorkers in buildings and near construction sites. The trainings focused on highlighting changes in the chapter of the new code which covers safeguarding procedures during building construction and demolition operations.

The new provisions in Chapter 33 of the 2014 Construction Code cover a broad range of issues that impact public safety in the daily life of many New Yorkers. The code now incorporates an occupant protection plan for office buildings - similar to the existing tenant protection plan requirements for dwelling units - to ensure the safety of occupants during periods of ongoing construction or demolition. Enhanced fire safety provisions will ensure deep excavation sites incorporate standpipes and hoists to facilitate operations in the event of an emergency. Chapter 33 in addition will require that sidewalk sheds have a daily inspection by either construction site contractors or building owners to check the safety and proper lighting functions of the structure. These provisions are a sample of the many ways NYC Department of Buildings will work through the new 2014 Construction Codes to enhance public safety.

“The 2014 NYC Construction Codes were designed to protect New York City, and Chapter 33 will do this while allowing compliant development to move forward,” said Commissioner Rick Chandler. “These code provisions will allow New York to build more homes, schools and offices for our families and businesses to grow while ensuring the safety of neighboring properties, pedestrians and construction sites.”

Training and safety initiatives related to the 2014 Construction Codes have been ongoing during this past year, including the Department’s annual Build Safe, Live Safe conference, presentations to the American Council of Engineering Companies, and American Institute of Architects. During these training sessions safe construction operations and key changes were spotlighted to improve compliance with the NYC Construction Codes by industry professionals. In addition, the agency has worked to build a greater awareness among the general public about noting and reporting unsafe building or construction site use through the use of social media platforms.

The Department will continue updating its website and social media over the coming weeks to provide training materials for industry members, and encourage awareness of safe building practices for individuals that live and work in New York City. Through these educational promotion methods the Department expects to generate the greatest public safety impact possible upon implementation of Chapter 33 and the new 2014 Construction Codes.

The 2014 NYC Construction Codes were modeled after the International Building Code and modified over the course of over 48,000 hours of collaborative contributions between elected officials, industry experts, and other stakeholders to meet the unique needs of New York City’s dense urban environment. The Codes go into effect October 1, 2014; the Department of Buildings will work closely with industry professionals to ensure an efficient transition from the previous codes upon implementation.

To learn more about the new NYC Construction Codes and upcoming training sessions, visit the Buildings Department website at www.nyc.gov/buildings and follow the link to the “2014 Construction Code”

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