

The New NYC Construction Codes Frequently Asked Questions

Why a New Building Code, and why now?

The 1968 New York City Building Code is one of the country's most stringent building codes, but it had not undergone a major revision since first adopted. Instead, decades of piecemeal modifications produced a long, cumbersome code, difficult to interpret. In 2002, Mayor Bloomberg assembled an advisory committee to study the possibility of adopting a Model Code to ensure the City would never again be bound by an outdated Building Code. The committee concluded that adopting the International Building Code (IBC) format would maintain an up-to-date and comprehensive NYC Building Code to meet the present and future challenges of New York's dense urban environment.

What are the benefits of the New NYC Construction Codes?

The New NYC Construction Codes enhance safety and encourage efficiency, cost savings and sustainable building. Putting safety front and center, these New Codes preserve the best of the 1968 Code while enhancing fire protection, construction safety and structural integrity in new buildings.

What are the differences between the 1968 Building Code and New NYC Construction Codes?

The Building Code is one of four codes that comprise the New NYC Construction Codes. The additional three codes developed as part of the Model Code Program are the Fuel Gas Code, Mechanical Code and Plumbing Code, along with Administrative provisions that include approval of construction documents, enforcement, maintenance of buildings, licensing, and regulation of outdoor signs.

Do the New NYC Construction Codes apply to all buildings, or may I still use the 1968 Building Code?

The New Codes become effective July 1, 2008, and professionals will be able to use either the New Codes or the 1968 Code for **new** buildings and construction. However, select provisions (including fees, approval of construction documents, issuance of permits, issuance of certificates of occupancy, special inspection, use of material, enforcement and construction safety provisions) are effective July 1, 2008 for *all work performed*. Beginning July 1, 2009, all new construction must be performed following the New Codes. For more information, read the Code Compass Fact Sheet CC002 – Effective Date, available on the Department's website at www.nyc.gov/buildings.

Additional Resources

If you have any questions on provisions under the New NYC Construction Codes, please email:

ConstructionCodes@buildings.nyc.gov



You can view individual chapters of the New NYC Construction Codes on the Department's website. Once on the Codes page, select the link to the [NYC Construction Codes](#) and scroll to the Item-by-Item section.

Sign up for [Buildings News](#) and read *Code Compass* for other technical facts about the New NYC Construction Codes.

Visit the Department's website at:

www.nyc.gov/buildings



Will the Materials and Equipment Acceptance (MEA) Unit be dissolved?

MEA will transform into the Office of Technical Certification and Research (OTCR). Under the New Codes, materials listed by nationally-recognized testing and evaluation services as compliant with national standards may be used in construction without the prior Department approval. However, OTCR will continue to approve materials when the Codes require approval and will review new or alternative materials or systems.

Will NYC lose control of its Building Code by adopting the Model Code?

Absolutely not. The Department will continue to review and recommend changes to the Codes, and City Council will continue to legislate revisions. Moreover, three-year revision cycles built into the Codes will ensure the City will never again be bound by an outdated set of codes.

How will the construction industry be educated on the New Codes?

Many industry professionals are already familiar with the New Codes' format because they're based upon the IBC format, already used in New York State, New Jersey and across the United States. The Department has also held numerous New Codes seminars, and will continue to partner with educational providers to train the industry and public. Please visit the NYC Construction Codes section of the Buildings Department website at www.nyc.gov/buildings for information and outreach presentations.

How do I obtain the New NYC Construction Codes?

The Buildings Department integrated local laws reflecting the New NYC Construction Codes, which the International Code Council has posted on its website. This integrated version is not the final product the ICC is publishing, as it does not include margin notations ICC will provide. This interim version is accessible on the Department's website at www.nyc.gov/buildings and on the ICC website at http://ecodes.biz/product.cfm?category_id=97. Once the final Codes books are published, they may be purchased at the NYC CityStore and on the ICC website at www.iccsafe.org.