

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FY 2018 REGULATORY AGENDA

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating new and amended rules during Fiscal Year 2018 that address the subjects set forth below.

Fire Department rules are consolidated in Title 3 of the Rules of the City of New York and are posted on the Fire Department's website, www.nyc.gov/fdny. There are no laws or rules that duplicate or conflict with the following proposed rules.

1. EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating rules to implement the emergency planning and preparedness provisions of Chapter 4 of the 2014 New York City Fire Code. The rules will set forth requirements for:

- Fire and Life Safety (FLS) plans;
- Fire and Emergency Preparedness (FEP) plans;
- Fire and Emergency Preparedness (FEP) guides and notices;
- Fire and Emergency Preparedness (FEP) Coordinators; and
- The conduct of fire drills.

For example, Rule 408-02 will expand the residential fire safety notice and guide to address non-fire emergencies and provide other relevant guidance to building occupants. The purpose is to educate the public as to the response to non-fire emergencies, especially in high-rise buildings. This rule was identified in the City's Retrospective Rules Review Initiative, and it simplifies and updates content to help support public understanding and compliance.

The rules will generally affect owners of large buildings and the businesses that occupy them, as set forth in FC Sections 403 to 415. The Fire Department anticipates these proposed rules will be published throughout FY 2018.

2. STATIONARY BATTERY SYSTEMS

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule addressing safety concerns arising from stationary battery installations and the new battery technologies they employ.

National fire safety codes and standards have not kept pace with the rapidly-evolving and expanding use of stationary battery installations in non-traditional applications and settings. Stationary battery systems were commonly used in buildings to provide uninterruptible power supply for building systems. Now, building owners install such systems to store power for general building use. These new energy storage systems are

much larger and introduce into occupied buildings substantial quantities of hazardous materials and the type of energized equipment previously found only in public utility or industrial settings. The presence of such equipment and materials poses a challenge to firefighting in the event the equipment and/or materials are the source of a fire or exposed to a fire in a building, especially a high-rise building.

The rule will generally affect owners of large buildings and the businesses that install stationary battery systems for general building power. The Fire Department anticipates this proposed rule will be published in the second quarter of FY 2018.

3. CLEANING OF COMMERCIAL KITCHEN EXHAUST DUCTS

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule addressing the safety concerns associated with grease build-up in commercial kitchen exhaust ducts. Restaurant exhaust duct fires are not uncommon and can cause significant property damage.

Both the Building Code and Fire Code regulate the grease-laden fumes generated by cooking and frying in restaurants and other commercial kitchens. The Building Code requires the installation of hoods and ducts to exhaust the fumes, and the Fire Code (in FC609) requires regular cleaning of the exhaust system to eliminate the grease build-up that is a serious fire hazard.

Currently, the Fire Code requires cleaning at least once every three months, or more frequently “as necessary.” A proposed rule would provide guidance as to when more frequent cleaning is necessary and require that the cleaning companies licensed by the Fire Department give written notice to owners if more frequent cleaning is needed.

The rule will affect owners of restaurants and other commercial kitchens and the licensed companies that clean kitchen exhaust systems. The proposed rule is consistent with the Administration’s objective to update content to help support public understanding and compliance. The Fire Department anticipates this rule will be published in the first quarter of FY 2018.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSE CONNECTIONS

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule to require more detailed signage that will assist in firefighting operations in high-rise buildings. The rule will affect owners of high-rise buildings and likely will be published in the second quarter of FY 2018.

5. FIRST RESPONDER BOXES

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule implementing Fire Code provisions relating to first responder boxes. First responder boxes are locked boxes in building lobbies, construction sites, and other locations in which floor plans and other

information are secured for Fire Department use. The rule will address when emergency responder boxes are required, and their design, location and contents.

The rule will affect developers and owners of large buildings. The Fire Department anticipates the proposed rule will be published in the third quarter of FY 2018.

6. SPECIAL EFFECTS

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating new rules relating to pyrotechnic and other special effects. The New York City Fire Code generally regulates special effects and requires supervision by a person holding a Fire Department certificate of fitness. With the increasing popularity of special effects, especially those in close proximity to an audience, as well as the expanded use of fire, flammable gases, and other dangerous materials, the Fire Department sees the need to promulgate rules codifying existing practices and additional appropriate fire safety precautions, and specifying the responsibilities of the persons conducting or supervising the special effects.

The rules will affect theaters and other places of assembly in which special effects are conducted and the persons who conduct such special effects. The Fire Department anticipates the proposed rules will be published in the third quarter of FY 2018.

7. EXPLOSIVES

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule revising the standard for blasting vibrations. The rule will affect developers and blasting contractors who engage in blasting operations on construction sites, and likely will be published in the third quarter of FY 2018.

8. ALCOHOL-FUELED FIREPLACES AND DECORATIVE DEVICES

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule regulating the use of stationary and portable devices that generate an open flame using liquid or solid alcohol fuel. There is increasing interest in installing and using such devices in lieu of conventional wood-burning or gas-fired fireplaces.

The rule will affect all buildings and businesses and likely will be published in the fourth quarter of FY 2018.

9. ELECTRONIC RECORDKEEPING

The Fire Department anticipates promulgating a new rule authorizing electronic recordkeeping documenting Fire Code compliance and setting forth how such records must be kept and made available to the Fire Department.

The rule will affect all buildings and businesses required to maintain records to document Fire Code compliance. The proposed rule is consistent with the Administration's

objective to update content to help support public understanding and compliance. The Fire Department anticipates this rule will be published in the fourth quarter of FY 2018.

Questions or Comments

Communications regarding this regulatory agenda should be directed to the Code Development Unit, Bureau of Fire Prevention, 9 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201-3857, or use the Public Feedback form for Fire Department Rules on the Fire Department's website, www.nyc.gov/fdny.