Int. No. 1445

By Council Members Williams, Crowley, Miller, Salamanca, Rosenthal, Rose, Reynoso, Levin, Espinal, Menchaca, Cornegy, Richards and Chin

A Local Law to amend the New York city building code, in relation to requiring safety netting and guardrail systems to protect floor openings

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 3306.9.12.1 of the building code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3306.9.12.1 Protection of floor openings. Every opening in a floor used for the removal of debris shall be tightly enclosed with a shaftway, extending from floor to floor, with such shaftway enclosed with:

1. Planking not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in thickness, or equivalent solid material; [or]

2. Where the opening is used for the removal of noncombustible material, wire mesh may be utilized in lieu of planking, provided such mesh is not less than number 18 gage wire mesh, with openings in the wire no longer than ½ inch (13 mm), and also provided that the wire mesh is securely attached, in accordance with drawings developed by a registered design professional, to the shaftway so that the wire mesh enclosure in any location does not deflect more than 2 inches (51 mm) when a force of at least 200 pounds (890 n) is applied along any horizontal portion of such wire mesh enclosure[.]; or

3. A guardrail system, vertical netting and horizontal netting where required by Sections 3308.6 and 3308.7.

Exceptions:

1. In buildings not more than six stories in height, a shaftway is not required. Instead openings in the floor shall be solidly planked over while not in use by planking not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in thickness, or equivalent solid material, and laid close. Where such working deck reaches a height of six stories or 75 feet above the level of the ground, horizontal netting shall be provided at a level not more than two stories or 30 feet below, as required by section 3308.6.1.

2. A shaftway is not required at the working deck. Instead, openings in the working deck shall be solidly planked over while not in use by planking not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in thickness, or equivalent solid material, and laid close. Where such working deck reaches a height of

six stories or 75 feet above the level of the ground, horizontal netting shall be provided at a level not more than two stories or 30 feet below, as required by section 3308.6.1.

§ 2. Section 3308 of the building code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION BC 3308

PROTECTION OF UNENCLOSED PERIMETERS, INTERIOR SHAFTWAYS, AND FLOOR OPENINGS

§ 3. Section 3308.1 of the building code of the city of New York, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.1 Scope. Safety netting systems and guardrail systems shall be provided as required by this section to protect unenclosed perimeters, interior shaftways and floor openings. Except where this section authorizes the temporary removal of unenclosed perimeter, interior shaftway or floor opening protection, no work shall occur, nor shall materials be stored on any level where required unenclosed perimeter, interior shaftway or floor opening protection is not installed.

§ 4. Section 3308.5 of the building code of the city of New York, as amended by local law number 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.5 Vertical safety netting systems. Vertical safety netting shall be installed and maintained to cover all unenclosed perimeters and interior shaftways.

§ 5. Section 3308.6.1.1 of the New York city building code, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.6.1.1 During construction. When, during the course of new building construction, or during the vertical or horizontal enlargement of an existing building, the uppermost walkable floor reaches a height of six stories or 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the level of the ground or an adjoining roof, horizontal safety netting shall be provided at a level not more than two stories or 30 feet (9144 mm) below:

1. Any floor opening or interior shaftway;

[1.] 2. In concrete structures: the stripping floor; or

[2.] 3. In steel structures: at the uppermost story where the concrete floor slab has been poured.

Exception: When tarpaulins encase one or more floors immediately below the finished concrete floor in order to maintain temporary heat, the horizontal netting may be located no more than three floors below the finished concrete floor.

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§ 6. Section 3308.6.1.2 of the New York city building code, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.6.1.2 During demolition. When the demolition of the exterior walls or the roof of a building occurs at a height greater than 6 stories or 75 feet (22 860 mm), horizontal safety netting shall be provided at a level not more than two stories or 30 feet (9144 mm) below the story from which the exterior walls and roof are being removed or below any floor opening or interior shaftway.

Exception: Demolition of exterior walls only for the purposes of the alteration, maintenance, or repair of a facade shall be in accordance with Section 3308.6.1.3.

§ 7. Section BC 3308.6.1.6 of the New York city building code, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.6.1.6 Temporary removal. Horizontal safety netting may be temporarily removed in the immediate area where active loading or unloading operations are occurring, or where perimeter work is occurring, or to relocate the nets to a higher level, provided that no concrete work, including formwork placement or stripping, no structural steel placement or assembly, and no work within 10 feet (3048 mm) from an unenclosed perimeter, interior shaftway or floor opening of the building occurs on levels above the horizontal safety netting. Horizontal safety nets shall be reinstalled immediately following the end of active loading or unloading operations, or active work, or at the end of the workday, whichever occurs sooner.

§ 8. Section 3308.7 of the New York city building code, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.7 Guardrail system. A guardrail system shall be installed and maintained to protect all unenclosed perimeters[.], interior shaftways and floor openings.

§ 9. Section 3308.7.7 of the New York city building code, as amended by local law 141 for the year 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3308.7.7 Temporary removal. Guardrail systems may be temporarily removed in the immediate area where active loading or unloading operations, including debris removal, are occurring, or where perimeter work is occurring, provided that:

1. A controlled access zone is established to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the area where the guardrail system is removed; and

2. Immediately prior to the removal of the guardrail system the floor is broom swept and cleared of all materials and equipment to a distance of at least 10 feet (3048 mm), in all directions, from the area where the guardrail system will be removed, except for material and equipment related to the loading or unloading operation or perimeter work or stored in accordance with Section 3303.4.5.2.

§ 10. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law, except that the commissioner of buildings may take such measures as are necessary for its implementation, including the promulgation of rules, prior to its effective date.

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