

Loss Prevention

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ENFORCEMENT UNIT NYC Department of Buildings

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a ban of nonessential construction. The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) is enforcing the shutdown order. Once the ban is lifted, we believe the DOB will begin its routine enforcement of construction codes. The purpose of this article is to make our readers aware of what takes place during an inspection by the DOB.

Construction Safety Enforcement Unit (CSE), created in August 2018, is an enforcement arm of the DOB throughout the five boroughs. The NYC Construction Codes require property owners to build and maintain their properties in safe condition. Failure to do so could result in violations, monetary penalties and/or criminal charges. CSE inspectors enforce the NYC Building Code and NYC Zoning Resolution to ensure the safety of all New Yorkers. CSE Unit responds to public complaints and inter-agency referrals regarding illegal construction, structural stability and use of the NYC buildings.

CSE conducts inspections without advance notice and need no warrant before entering the building or construction worksite due to ***imminent danger situations, severe injuries, Worker Complaints, Follow-up inspections and After Accidents/Damage to adjoining property.***

What to do in case of a DOB Inspection

On-Site Inspections Sequence - After the **Presentation** of a CSE Inspector at the field office, there is a **Walk around**.

- The CSE Inspector and the owner/lessee/contractor/subcontractor (OLCS) representatives will walk through the portions of the workplace covered by the inspection, inspecting for hazards that could lead to public and/or employee injury or illness, or to damage(s) to adjoining property.
- During the walk around, CSE Inspectors may point out some apparent violations that can be corrected immediately.
- While the law requires that these hazards must still be cited, prompt correction is a sign of good faith on the part of the OLCS. CSE Inspectors try to minimize work interruptions during the inspection and will keep confidential any trade secrets observed.

- After the walk around, the CSE Inspector should hold a **closing conference** with the owner/lessee/contractor/subcontractor representatives to discuss the findings.
- The CSE Inspector will discuss contesting citations and proposed penalties. When an inspector finds violations of [DOB Building Code](#) or serious hazards associated with other occupational and public health agencies CSE may issue citations and fines.
- Citations describe CSE requirements allegedly violated, list any proposed penalties, and give a deadline for correcting the alleged hazards.
- Alternatively, OLCS have 15 working days after receipt of citations and proposed penalties to formally contest the alleged violations and/ or penalties by contacting the Construction Enforcement Unit in the borough specific to the citation

The Construction Safety Compliance Unit is one of two new units created by the consolidation of the Building Enforcement Safety Team (BEST), Excavation and Interior Demolition Unit, and the Scaffold Safety Unit. The other new unit is the Construction Safety Enforcement (CSE) Unit. Both units work to significantly increase safety compliance monitoring at construction sites throughout the City pursuant to LL196 of 2017 and better serve the construction industry and address community concerns throughout the five boroughs. For more information please contact the Construction Safety Enforcement (CSE) Unit directly at the physical address in 280 Broadway, 4th Floor, and Phone: (212) 393-2404 (press 1), or you can email the CSE Unit at cseinquiry@buildings.nyc.gov. If you need additional information about the CSE, their website is: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/index.page>

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