



WEEKLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 8 - 11, 2020

Message from the Executive Board:

We hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday weekend! Labor Day traditionally marks an end to the Summer and the start of Fall, but Winter cannot get here fast enough for those of us in the heating business.

We are happy to report that all members whose licenses expired, were able to be renewed last week. A special thank you to our Lobbyist, Arthur Goldstein, and Licensing Committee, who worked hard to get this done. The MPC has sent an email to all members whose license is due to expire by the end of the year. If you need a Continuing Education class, we have you covered with our CTE classes that are now provided online. You can take the course from the comfort and safety of your own home.

Last week we held our first General Membership Meeting since March. The meeting was held at Russo's on the Bay and was attended by fifty members. It was great to see everyone again! We are working on planning for the October Meeting and will alert members to the details shortly.

Everyone is gearing up for Local Law 152 inspections. This issue has some news and tomorrow we will be sending out the AOC list for members to use.

Please pay attention to the reminder below sent by the DOB regarding COVID compliance.

REMINDER: NYC DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS REOPENING GUIDANCE – NYC CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

DOB Committee Comments: Don't be complacent. The DOB is active in looking for violators and is writing violations.

As a reminder, all active sites must continue to be in compliance with State and City Phase 1 restart requirements. To understand what is expected of your site, please refer to the following:

- [Interim Guidance for Construction Activities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- ["Do's and Don'ts" Document](#)
- ["What to Know" One-Pager.](#)

If upon a visit from NYC Department of Buildings (DOB), a single Phase 1 restart violating condition is observed– your site will be assessed a violation that carries a financial penalty of \$5,000. If your site does not have a [Safety Plan](#) and [State Affirmation](#) conspicuously posted and/or is lacking a proper hand hygiene station, your site will be issued a Stop Work Order in addition to the financial penalty.



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Continued noncompliance may result in additional summonses with accompanying civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for each offense. If during DOB's visit, **any Construction Code and Electrical Code** non-compliances are observed, Inspectors will take appropriate enforcement actions, including the potential issuance of violations with monetary penalties.

The [Safety Plan](#) you must have on-site should be filled-out completely and posted for all to see. The [Safety Plan's](#) intent is to outline how your workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. You should follow [the Safety Plan template](#) located on the State's website, which you can access by clicking [here](#). Your [State Affirmation](#) should be posted as well, you can fill-out your Affirmation by clicking [here](#). All sites must also provide and maintain (at least one) hand hygiene station that is accessible for all personnel. This could include a handwashing station with soap, water, and paper towels, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible.

If your site is assessed a COVID-19 Stop Work Order, a portal is available in [DOB NOW: Safety](#) to submit a rescind request. Additional information can be found in our [Service Notice](#).

Also please remember as City Employees performing essential regulatory duties, DOB Inspectors and other Field Staff with face coverings who visit construction sites are self-monitoring for any COVID-19 symptoms every day to ensure they do their work safely for themselves and the public. As such, Inspectors and Field Staff are not subject to screening and must be permitted access to a construction site. Failure to provide access will result in the issuance of a Stop Work Order.

For additional information on the Phase 1 re-opening, please visit nyc.gov/buildings. On our Phase-1 re-opening [webpage](#), you will find resources including [DOB's Phase 1 Re-Opening Guidance](#), [FAQs](#), and the [State's Interim Guidelines](#). **If you have any questions, please reach out via email to COVID19@buildings.nyc.gov.**



WEEKLY UPDATE

LL152 UPDATES

Updated on September 6, 2020

The AOC list will be sent to membership tomorrow. Because we have been receiving so many member questions, we anticipate that this list will be expanded upon. Below is an example. Thank you to the member who sent in the original question.

Question: We came across of a property that when the visual inspection was conducted, the point of entry valve is locked. What do I write on the GPS-1 and GPS-2?

Response:

- If the service is locked and there is no red tag present the utility must be notified.
- If the owner has terminated the use of gas in the building, they must retain registered architect or professional engineer to conduct a survey of the site and complete a GSP-2 for submission to the DOB by the owner.
- If the service has been shut down and the intent is to reactivate after repairs have been completed then you should **NOT** conduct the inspection and note that the service is locked off on the GPS-1 and GPS-2 forms.

Have a question? Send it to our DOB Committee at dob@nycmpc.org

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Last week, we submitted a follow-up list of questions to the DOB. The DOB is reviewing them and considering creating a FAQ list for their website. Hopefully, their response will settle a few open issues such as:

- 1- How to conduct the inspection for outdoor piping.
- 2- What tenant spaces are exempt from inspection?
- 3- Utilization of the 2014 Code as a basis for the inspection.

We anticipate receiving final responses this week. Once we receive them, we will send the information to membership.

Have a question? Send it to our DOB Committee at dob@nycmpc.org



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SURVEY: The MPC is considering creating a LL152 inspection training course. This course would be provided at a cost to membership. The course would review all of the inspector requirements for conducting the inspections, identification and reporting of AOCs and completing the paperwork. Please fill out the survey below to express your interest in this course.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey.

Message from the DOB Committee:

Members have been contacting us about unqualified persons advertising to conduct these inspections, as well as plumbers who have been advertising extremely low priced inspections. Please send any literature you come across that meets this criteria to office@nycmpc.org

WARNING: Any DOT 86/87 **active** qualified operator is **required** to conduct these inspections according to the NYS inspection protocols. In order to conduct these inspections, the inspector **must** be either a DOT 86/87 **active** qualified operator to conduct these inspections or a NYC licensed Master Plumber.

INSPECTION WAIT TIMES – PLAN AHEAD

Updated on September 6, 2020

Members have been reporting that service times are starting to shorten. [Click here](#) for the DOB NOW Inspection page and click **Inspection Service Levels** for the current service levels.

Coming soon: Survey on the DOB Development Inspections

Have any survey question ideas? Send them to our DOB Committee at dob@nycmpc.org



WEEKLY UPDATE

How to Apply for a DEP Water Meter Permit or Break Seal Permit via Email **(REPEAT from 08-23-20)**

From the DEP 08-28-20:

Master Plumbers Council,

Please advise your members that bringing permit applications to any of our Borough Offices will not shorten DEP's review process. All applications are handled as they are received. Those coming in through the email account will be handled in date order with consideration of what has been received by mail and in person (also in date order). We also continue to receive repeated requests for updates (especially through email) that slows down our process and causes further delays. At this time we are issuing permits within 10 business days. We aim to improve this turnaround, but without the cooperation of our customers and having to abide by strict COVID-19 office requirements, our turnaround time will only increase.

Thank you for understanding.

Message from the DEP Committee:

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION

The DEP has bent over backwards to help you obtain water meter permits. Please follow the required procedures. When this process started, permits were issued within 2 - 3 business days. If applicants followed the protocols, we are certain that they would be issued in under a week.

Please see the process.

[Click here to view the DEP Email Permit Application Procedure.](#)

If you have an issue with the process, please contact us at dep@nycmpc.org

1. Submit your application.
2. Pay the required fees (it takes 2-3 days to process)
3. Allow for 10 business days to process the application.
4. Only contact the DEP on day 11 after the submission of your application.
5. Only use the queenspermits@dep.nyc.gov email account, unless you are contacted from a staff person with a specific issue.



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Email submission is a great privilege. Please be considerate and follow the required protocols. Your cooperation will help alleviate some of the backlog and get the systems moving along more quickly.

Also, starting August 24, 2020, returned meter permits will be accepted by mail at each Borough Office locations. Completed meter permits, along with their respective meter tags can be mailed to a **location listed below**. After the permit is accepted, a receipt will be mailed to the plumber's office on file. If you would also like to receive an electronic version of the receipt, which will be faster than mail, please include an email address with your submission.

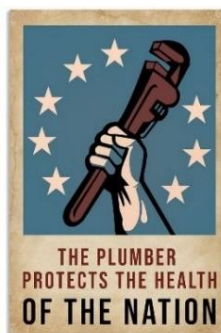
Locations:

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------|
| • Bronx: | 1932 Arthur Ave., 6 th floor | Bronx, NY 10457 |
| • Brooklyn: | 250 Livingston St., 8 th floor | Brooklyn, NY 11201 |
| • Manhattan: | 1250 Broadway, 16 th floor | New York, NY 10001 |
| • Queens: | 96-05 Horace Harding Exp., 1 st floor | Corona, NY 11368 |
| • S.I.: | 60 Bay St., 6 th floor | S.I., NY 10301 |

Other DEP Bureau of Customer Services Updates:

Please be advised that starting August 24, 2020:

- all customer service borough offices are open by appointment only basis. Customers must have an appointment to enter our customer service offices and they must also wear a mask or face covering, as required by New York State.
- all indoor meter inspections have also resumed with protocols implemented to keep both our customers and staff safe during this public health emergency.
- For more information please visit our website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/news/210820/customer-service-information-operational-changes-covid-19>



STAY SAFE