

Legislation at a Glance

Proposal 23: Supply Drinking Water Without Power

Implemented

Local Law 110 of 2013

Summary

During a power failure, residential buildings using electric pumps lose their supply of potable water. Water may be present below the sixth floor, but in some cases even that remains unavailable if a non-operating pump blocks the water supply. This law requires residential buildings to provide drinking water to a common area, supplied directly through pressure in the public water main.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: December 31, 2014

NYC Plumbing Code Section 614; NYC Administrative Code Section 28-315.8.1

Residential buildings, hotels, dormitories and residential care facilities that use pumps to deliver potable water must provide fixtures that can supply potable water in an emergency when power to the building is lost. There must be at least one fixture per 100 occupants. The fixtures must be over a sink or drain and in an accessible common area of the building (but not in a bathroom). Clear signs must identify the location of these fixtures.

This law applies to both new and existing buildings. Existing buildings greater than five stories must install such fixtures within eight years of the date this law takes effect, by December 31, 2022.

Enforcement

The Department of Buildings will enforce these requirements as part of its normal permitting and inspection process.

Implementation Notes

There are no known issues with fulfilling the requirements of this legislation.