

Legislation at a Glance

Proposal 24: Ensure Toilets and Sinks Work Without Power

Implemented

Local Law 79 of 2013

Summary

Some toilets and faucets need electricity to function. This presents a sanitation risk during an extended power outage. This legislation requires that some toilets and faucets be capable of operating without grid power.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: December 31, 2014

NYC Plumbing Code Sections 424.1.3 and 425.1.2

At least one faucet and one toilet in each bathroom must be capable of operating without external electrical power for at least two weeks. The law applies to both commercial and residential buildings. In dwelling units, however, only one faucet and toilet per unit (rather than one per bathroom) must comply with this regulation. The requirement will take effect at the same time as Local Law 141 of 2013, which will revise the NYC building, mechanical, fuel gas and plumbing codes in order to bring them into line with the 2009 edition of the international version of those codes.

Enforcement

These requirements are part of the plumbing code, and will be enforced by the Department of Buildings.

Implementation Notes

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