NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Ensure Operable Toilets and Sinks in Blackouts

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: October 1, 2014

Adds new sections 424.1.3 and 425.1.2 to the NYC Plumbing Code:

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. These changes will not apply retroactively; they will be triggered when new construction or renovation requires a permit under this portion of the Plumbing Code.

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.

Enforcement

These regulations are a standard part of the Plumbing Code. The Department of Building will enforce them in the same manner as any other element of the codes.

Implementation

There are no known issues for the implementation of this law.