NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Reduce Artificial Lighting in Sunlit Lobbies & Hallways

Implemented
Local Law 47 of 2010

Summary
The New York City Building Code mandated excessive lighting for egress spaces and that they be illuminated by artificial means even when the space was daylit or unoccupied.

The law lowers required illumination levels in specific occupancy types to align with national standards and allows natural light to supply the required levels of illumination, while maintaining previous New York City standards when spaces are occupied.

New Requirements or Changes
Effective: January 1, 2011. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered when construction activity requires a permit for work covered by this section of the Building Code.

Amendments to Section BC 202 of The New York City Building Code
• Defines Occupant Sensor and Photosensor.

Amendments to Sections BC 1006.1 and 1006.2 of The New York City Building Code
• Daylight or electric lighting fixtures shall provide illumination in all exits, exit discharges and public corridors, and in exit access components when the space they serve is occupied. Prior to this, electric lighting was required.
  o Exceptions for various special uses are unchanged.
• One (1) foot-candle shall be maintained at the walking surface level in all means of egress, down from two foot-candles.
  o Exceptions for special uses like auditoriums, safe areas, and open exterior spaces are unchanged.
• Where photoluminescent material for exit path markings exists and was tested for proper charging at two (2) foot-candles, the illumination level minimum cannot be less than two foot-candles.
• Occupant sensors and photosensors are allowed, but minimum levels (above) must be met at all times, including any times the sensors may fail.

Enforcement
These new and revised provisions are a standard part of the Building Code. They will be enforced by the Department of Buildings in the same manner as any other element of the code.
Implementation

There are no known issues for implementation of this Local Law. The use of occupancy and photo sensors is a non-mandatory alternative means of providing the code required lighting conditions. These sensors are widely available, but require careful installation and adjustment.

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