NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Insulate Exposed Pipes During Construction

Implemented
Local Law 12 of 2014

Summary
Pipe insulation is a cost-effective measure to improve energy efficiency. While it is required for new construction, most pipes in existing buildings lack this beneficial insulation. This law requires piping exposed during alterations or repairs to be covered with insulation meeting current energy code standards.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: October 1, 2014. These changes do not apply retroactively; they are only triggered when construction activity requires a permit for work covered by this section of the code.

New Article 316 of the New York City Administrative Code:

- Section 28-316.1 requires that piping exposed during building alteration or repair be insulated to the extent required by the New York City Energy Conservation Code.

- This requirement does not apply if:
  - Exposed pipe has one-inch thick continuous coverage of existing insulation in good condition, or
  - The length of pipe exposed during alteration or repair is less than 3 feet.
  - There is insufficient space due to conflicts with existing construction. In this case, pipes must be insulated to the extent that space allows.

Enforcement
This new provision is a standard part of the Administrative Code, which determines the maintenance of buildings covered by the NYC Construction Codes. It will be enforced by the Department of Buildings in the same manner as any other element of the code.

Implementation
There are no known implementation issues for this proposal. Insulation materials are readily available.