

Legislation at a Glance

Proposal 5: Remove Barriers to Sidewalk Flood Protection

Implemented

Local Law 109 of 2013

Summary

Building owners may wish to install flood barriers on sidewalks, but are deterred by codes that limit sidewalk use and that assume buildings are fully occupied during floods. This legislation allows temporary flood barriers or shields, and their supports and attachments, to extend into the public right-of-way. It also allows temporary stairs and ramps to be used to access exits above the flood line.

New Requirements or Changes

Effective: December 2, 2013

NYC Building Code, Section 3202.4:

In flood zones, temporary flood shields, stairs, and ramps may extend up to 12 inches beyond the street line. They must be removed in a timely manner after the flood event.

NYC Building Code Section 3202.1.1.1:

In flood zones, footings for temporary flood barriers or shields may extend up to 12 inches beyond the street line, both at and below grade.

NYC Building Code Section 3202.2.2.3:

In flood zones, permanent attachments on building facades needed to support temporary flood barriers may extend up to 6 inches beyond the street line.

NYC Building Code, Appendix G, Section G308.7:

In existing buildings, temporary stairs and ramps may be used to access required exits located above the flood line. In new buildings that plan to evacuate (except for maintenance and emergency personnel) during floods, temporary stairs and ramps may be used only for non-residential areas.

Enforcement

These requirements will be enforced by the Department of Buildings and the Department of Transportation as part of their normal approval and inspection processes.

Implementation Notes

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