

American Council of Engineering Companies of New York



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New electrical codes bring New York City up to date

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On June 28, Mayor Bloomberg signed Local Law 39 of 2011, putting into effect updated requirements that will ensure New York's Electrical Code reflects important technology, materials and industry standards. The new law, developed with input from the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York and other industry groups, is in effect as of July 1 with a phase-in period through December 31.

NYC Local Law 39 adopts the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC), and includes new technical amendments specific to the city's needs. Fire alarm system requirements for power and wiring, which were included in prior NYC Building Codes, are now included in the electrical code. Additional changes include:

- Circuit wiring documentation for selective coordination before sign-off
- Increased emergency power requirements for healthcare facilities
- Over-current protection for fire pumps to allow for long-term use in an emergency
- Electrical closets sized to allow sufficient working space
- Sidewalk shed lighting in compliance with the 2011 code
- Use of nationally recognized



Mayor Bloomberg signs law updating NYC's electrical code

components in Solar Photovoltaic Systems, with detailed diagrams on-site

Technology in the building trades, particularly in connection with electrical engineering work, is a constantly evolving science. Fortunately, the NYC Electrical Code was drafted with sufficient clarity of purpose to make such innovations in a complex industry possible. Regular periodic updates to the code, which coincide with the NEC three year cycle, will enable continued adaptability to an ever changing world.

ACEC New York will continue to work with the Department of Buildings and the New York City Council to ensure that future updates

reflect the on-the-ground issues encountered by our engineers, architects and builders every day as well as best practices for safety and sustainability.

"The collaborative effort of the revision process reaffirmed the partnership we have developed between the public and private sectors, which are both dedicated to making New York City a safer place to live, work, and build," said Mayor Bloomberg.

Serge Budzyn, PE, is the executive vice president of Lilker Associates Consulting Engineers and chairs ACEC New York's Electrical Codes Committee.