



## The Division of Building Standards and Codes 2022 Update

This issue is dedicated to updating its readers about recent changes in the Division of Building Standards and Codes. The Division is comprised of ten units that work together to ensure the appropriate administration and enforcement of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (State Energy Code). Four of the ten units have recently gone through changes that may be of particular interest to the code enforcement community, as detailed in the update below.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UNIT** The Educational Services Unit administers the Basic Training Program and the In-Service Training Program. The unit is managed by Francis “Nick” McAndrew, PE.

The [Basic Training Program](#) has been delivered virtually since May 2020. Virtual training has proven to be significantly more efficient than traditional face-to-face training. For example, the unit certified approximately 625 code officials in the 2021 Training Series. This is a significant increase from the 350± code officials that were certified in 2019, when basic training was provided in a physical classroom. Not only is the unit certifying more code officials, but they are certifying them faster. Prior to 2020, students would have to wait an average of 3 months to be enrolled and then approximately 10-12 months to become certified. With virtual training, the enrollment wait time has been reduced to approximately 6 weeks and students could become fully certified in approximately 6 months.

The In-Service Training Program currently offers 26 hours of online, on demand [In-Service Training](#), including [SLMS classes](#) and [self-study classes](#). These classes are in addition to monthly In-Service [webinars](#). The In-Service Training Program provided 48 hours of webinar training between January and November 2021. Thousands of code officials attended these training events, which resulted in 50,630 hours of acquired training. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the E-Bulletin Mailing List to receive email notifications pertaining to training classes and events.

**ENERGY CODE SERVICES UNIT** The Energy Code Services Unit is a new addition to the Division and is managed by Emma Gonzalez-Laders, RA, LEED AP. Its primary function is the development of the State Energy Code and to participate in the development of the model ICC Energy Conservation Construction Code. To this end, the unit receives code change proposals, assesses their suitability for inclusion in State Energy Code updates, advises the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (Code Council) on their adoption; and receives, evaluates, and advises the Code Council regarding [More Stringent Local Energy Conservation Construction Codes](#). State Energy Code related code change proposals may be sent to [energy.code.dev@dos.ny.gov](mailto:energy.code.dev@dos.ny.gov).

The unit also evaluates petitions for variances to the State Energy Code and provides recommendations to the Secretary (or the Secretary’s designee), participates in the development of recommendations to the Climate Action Council to accomplish the goals of the [New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#), and addresses State Energy Code related technical questions. Technical support requests may be sent to [energy.code.support@dos.ny.gov](mailto:energy.code.support@dos.ny.gov).

**OVERSIGHT UNIT** This relatively new unit is managed by Chad Haviland. Several years ago, Executive Law § 376-a was amended to authorize the Secretary of State to establish rules and regulations for, after a hearing with the Administrative Law Judge, revoking or suspending the certification of code enforcement personnel who have materially failed to uphold their code enforcement duties. See [19 NYCRR Subpart 1208-6](#). The Oversight Unit was created to review and process complaints regarding code enforcement personnel. Additional information about the suspension and revocation of Certifications can be found in issue 2020-01 of the Code Outreach Program titled [Certification Status](#).

The unit also reviews and processes complaints alleging that an authority having jurisdiction (city, town, village, or county) has failed to administer and enforce the Uniform Code and/or State Energy Code in accordance with the minimum standards found in 19 NYCRR Parts 1201 to 1208. For additional information regarding complaints relating to code enforcement personnel and/or an authority having jurisdiction, please see: <https://dos.ny.gov/code/complaints>.

**CODE DEVELOPMENT UNIT** The Code Development Unit evaluates proposed changes to the Uniform Code, develops the Division’s rules (19 NYCRR), and serves as the secretariat to the Code Council. The unit is managed by Kevin Duerr-Clark, PE.

The unit played a key role in the development of the recently amended 19 NYCRR Part 1203. The Notice of Adoption was published in the State Register on December 29, 2021, and will become effective on December 30, 2022. Local governments will need to amend their local laws by that date. Additional information and resources can be found in Code Outreach Program [Issue 2022-01](#).

On March 4, 2022, the Code Council adopted a rule that adds specific provisions in relation to the installation, modification, use, and maintenance of grease traps and interceptors to the Uniform Code. The rule was adopted as an emergency rule and will become effective on March 22, 2022. Information about the grease interceptor rule can be found here: <https://dos.ny.gov/notice-emergency-adoption>.

To learn more about the Code Development Unit visit the website at: <https://dos.ny.gov/code/code-development>.

We wish Charles Bliss, Gary Traver, Joseph McGrath, Neal McManus, and Robert Reed, the very best in their retirement! It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Mark Mirando. Mark was a valued member of our team and will be missed.

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If you have questions pertaining to the Code Outreach Program, email us at: [COP.codes@dos.ny.gov](mailto:COP.codes@dos.ny.gov)

If you have questions pertaining to the Uniform Code, email our Technical Support unit at: [codes@dos.ny.gov](mailto:codes@dos.ny.gov)

If you have questions pertaining to the Energy Code, email our Energy Code Services unit at: [energy.code.support@dos.ny.gov](mailto:energy.code.support@dos.ny.gov)