

# Deadly Construction Accident Spurs Change in New York City Building Inspections

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In the wake of a deadly crane accident, the New York Buildings Department has changed the way it inspects and regulates tower cranes. Under the new rules, for all constructions sites:

1. Building inspectors will be present whenever a crane is erected, jumped, or dismantled.
2. Project engineers who submit the original permit application for a crane must submit written guidelines whenever a crane is “jumped” and certification that the jump was done according to the guidelines.
3. Before a crane jump is executed, the lead contractor and workers involved must meet to discuss safety protocol.

Additionally, to be licensed in New York City, new crane operators will need at least one year of experience in the city and to pass the more stringent and modernized requirements for national certification. By 2014, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will require all New York crane operators to obtain national certification and get retested every five years.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, seven people were killed on 51<sup>st</sup> St. east of Second Avenue when construction workers were “jumping” – installing steel bracing so additional section could be added – the crane, and a six-ton steel collar broke loose, fell, and knocked out some lower braces. A Buildings crane inspector has since been arrested after he lied about inspecting the crane the day before the accident.

Local 14 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, which represents crane operators, is strongly opposed to the new changes.

## Get Legal Help

The [New York Construction Accident Attorneys](#) focus on cases involving personal injury, construction accidents, and wrongful death in New York and New Jersey, including Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Westchester, the Bronx, Long Island, Harlem, and upstate New York. Contact David Perecman of [The Perecman Firm](#).