

2019 Rooftop Access Training

March 18th, 2019 John Ingenito

Overview



- Firematics & Operations
- Code Analysis: 2014 NYC Fire Code Sections FC504.4 & FC512
- Common Non-Compliant Installations and Solutions



PLEASE HOLD ALL QUESTIONS UNTIL THE END

THANK YOU

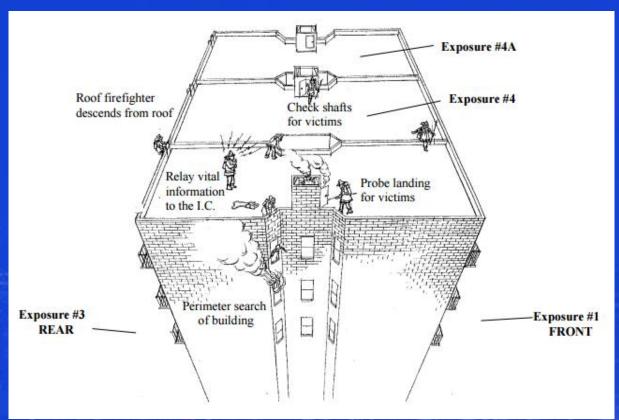
Roof of the Fire Building



Nothing shall deter the member assigned the roof position from carrying out the assigned duties.



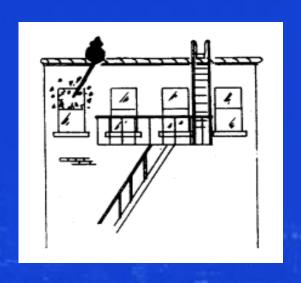
Roof Position Requirements



- •A **perimeter search** shall include the sides, rear and shafts of the building.
- •Transmitting vital information to the Incident Commander.

Roof Position Requirements





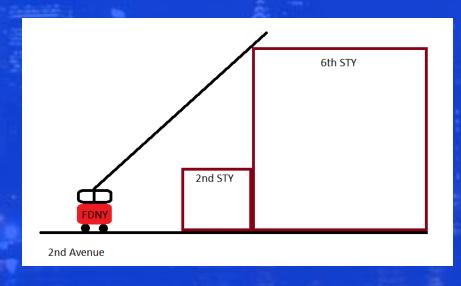


• Roof **ventilation** is critical for search, rescue and extinguishment of the fire. Relieves the upper portions of the building of heat, smoke and gases, limiting horizontal spread.



Overview of FC504.4 Rooftop Access and Obstructions

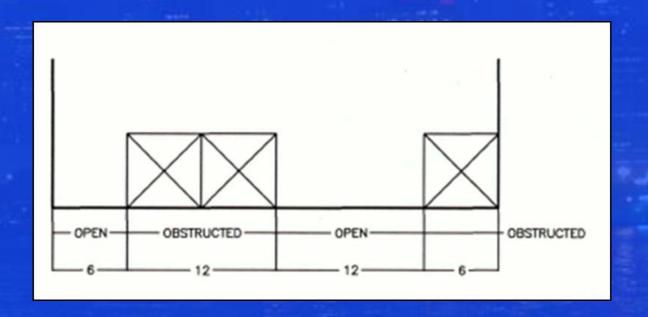
- 2014 Fire Code effective as of March 30th, 2014
- Buildings that are 100 feet or less in height and have a slope of 20 degrees or less
- Includes the rooftops of building setbacks





FC504.4.1 Access Openings

- CITY OF MEN YORK
- Every 12 FEET of frontage width requires 6 FEET open
- There can be NO MORE than 12 FEET of obstructed rooftop area between distinct openings
- Pattern depends on building size
- Only calculated for an apparatus accessible exposure
 - Includes side streets, parking lots and exposures where a truck can drive



FC504.4.3



- Perimeter access location shall be a min. of 6' in each direction & connect to clear path
- Fence shall not obstruct access landing and shall provide access to clear path via gate.
- Gates
 - 3' wide, inward swinging
 - May be secured by padlock or chain
 - Able to be cut by standard bolt cutter

Non-Compliant Fence





Measurements

CITY OF MEN YORK

- Measurements from inside face of parapet wall
- Raised/Decorative Parapets: Indicate height of all segments



<u>Sloped Parapets:</u> "usable" rooftop space begins where slope meets flat portion of roof







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FC504.4.1[5]





Structures affixed to an exterior building wall below the roof line shall not obstruct fire apparatus aerial ladder access to the rooftop perimeter access locations. Including but not limited to:

- Awnings
- Sun Control Devices
- Solar Panels
- Fire Escapes





Scaffolding & Signage



- FC504.4.1[6]
 - Existing scaffolding modified to provide access onto rooftop
 - New scaffolding be designed to provide secure landings onto rooftop
- FC504.4.2
 - Rooftop access signs and markings
 TBD by Fire Department through plan examination

Clear Path Summary



- FC504.4.4
 - Clear path is 6' wide & 9' tall
 - Traverses front to rear & side to side
 - Distinct clear path every 100 linear feet.
- FC504.4.4[1]
 - Clear path connects to access landings
- FC504.4.4[2]
 - Fire escape, bulkhead door, scuttles, skylights shall be accessible from clear path
 - 3' wide access around scuttles & skylights on 3 sides
- <u>FC504.4.4[3]</u> see FC504.4.7
- FC504.4.4[4]
 - Fences crossing clear path shall provide gate(s)

FC504.4.6







- Required rooftop clearances
 - Roof door: 6' clear radius from hinge
 - Fire Escape & Roof Ladders: 3' clear radius from each side of the ladder or landing

Code interpretation: Clearance for Scuttle and Skylight "to the maximum extent practicable"



Summary of the guidelines:

For Rooftops constructed pursuant to plans approved by DOB or the FDNY on or before December 31, 2017 Scuttles and Skylights that do not have 3 feet of clearance on 3 sides will be considered to be in compliance with FC504.4 when clearance is limited by any parapet wall or Qualifying Encroachment:

- Attic ventilator
- Chimney
- Plumbing ventilation pipe
- Freestanding HVAC condenser with a capacity of 5 tons or more.

- Bulkhead
- Hatch
- Scuttle
- Skylight

Note: This does not mean that the Rooftop itself is in compliance with FC504.4. Upon alteration to the rooftop any other non compliant features, including obstructions to the required Scuttles and Skylights clearance that are not listed above, will trigger the requirement to file with the FDNY.

Code interpretation: Clearance for Scuttle and Skylight "to the maximum extent practicable"

Frequently Asked Question #37 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code Guide http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/nyc-fire-code-guide.pdf

The skylight and scuttle clearance requirement is intended to provide firefighters access to these building features to allow heat and smoke to be vented from the building during a fire. Such venting facilitates interior firefighting operations and helps control fire spread. Clearance in several directions affords firefighters the maneuverability they need to breach the skylight or open the scuttle, and allows firefighters to remain upwind of the heat and smoke that pours out once they accomplish this task.

By stating "to the maximum extent practicable," the Fire Code recognizes that an owner's ability to provide three feet of clearance around rooftop skylights and scuttles may be constrained by the layout of the rooftop. It would be impossible or impracticable to move parapet walls and other permanent building features that lie within three feet of a skylight or scuttle (including most building features termed "Qualifying Encroachments" in Frequently Asked Question #38 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code Guide).

Accordingly, the Fire Department interprets the "maximum extent practicable" language of FC504.4.4(2) with respect to skylight/scuttle clearance as follows:

A skylight or scuttle will be deemed in compliance with FC504.4.4(2), even though there is less than three feet of clearance on three of its sides, when:

1.the rooftop was constructed pursuant to plans approved by the Department of Buildings or Fire Department on or before December 31, 2017; and

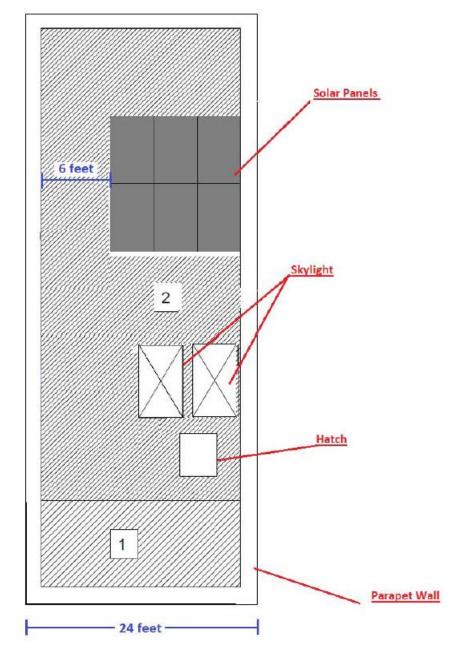
2.the clearance is limited by any parapet wall or Qualifying Encroachment – attic ventilator, bulkhead, chimney, hatch, plumbing ventilation pipe, scuttle, skylight, or roof-mounted heating/air conditioning equipment (HVAC) – except a freestanding HVAC condenser with a capacity of 5 tons or less.

A solar, telecommunications or other rooftop installation will not be disapproved by the Department of Buildings and/or the Fire Department based on the lack of the required skylight/scuttle clearance, provided it meets the foregoing guidelines.

Newly-designed and constructed buildings should provide such clearance or obtain a modification (variance) from the Fire Department in accordance with **FC104.8**. An applicant unable to comply with any other requirement of **FC504.4.4** also may request a modification.



2 CLEAR PATH CLEARANCES





Clearances



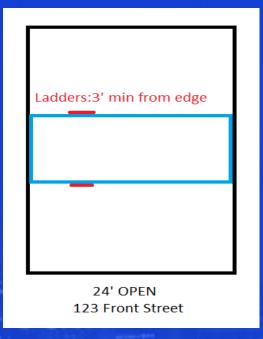




Clear Path Summary Continued







- FC504.4.4[5], Multiple Roof Levels
 - 1 story difference and less than 16' difference (Ladders)
 - Exception: setback is less than 6' (No ladders)

FC504.4.4[6]





- Irregular shaped buildings:
 - "H" shaped buildings (additional paths)

FC504.4.5

Rooftop clear path protection

Consists of 42" height (from roof surface) railing, parapet or barrier

Provide for open shafts, building perimeter or unprotected elevation above rooftop

Exception:

Height differentials of 6 feet or less





Obstructions







FC504.4.7 & FC504.4.8



- Conduits and Piping FC504.4.7
 - Labeled as required
 - Greater than 12" ht or <u>24" width</u>, non-combustible crossover
- Telecommunications
 Installations FC504.4.8
 - Transmitter labeling
 - Signage as required for antennas, powered equipment, and related equipment



Rooftop Gardens



- FC504.4.9
 - Shall not cause obstruction to required rooftop access, clear path, or rooftop door/fire escape clearances
 - Vegetation shall not exceed 12" in height
- FC318.5 & Plumbing Code 429.1
 - Hose connection to an approved water supply required for square footage exceeding 250 sq ft

Green Roof







FC504.4.10



 Rooftop solar installations shall be designed, installed, operated and maintained in accordance with FC512

Overview of FC512 Rooftop Solar Panel Installations



Summary of FC512



- Solar Panel on Flat Roofs shall comply with all requirements of FC504.4
 - Exception to the clear path requirement:
 - Approved hinged mechanism for clear path obstructed by solar panels, NEEDS FD Certificate of Approval, TM-2 App. (FC 512.2[1])
 - Acceptable encroachments on the clear path for narrow buildings, 25 feet or less (FC 512.2[2])

Clarification of FC512.2[2]



Summary of the guidelines:

FC512.2[2] allows for "Qualifying Encroachments" to encroach upon the clear path to a limited extent and under the following circumstances:

- 1. The building rooftop must be 25 feet or less in width and/or depth
- 2. The design of the solar panel installation necessitates substantial rooftop coverage
- 3. The encroachment does not reduce the width of the clear path beyond the amount approved by the Fire Department. [minimum width of 4 feet]
- 4. Qualifying Encroachments may not limit the perimeter access landing areas or any required rooftop clearances other than the clear path unless otherwise permitted under separate FDNY guidelines.
- 5. Proposed installation must be filed with DOB or the FDNY for full plan review.
- Professional certification may not be used in lieu of plan review
 6.Installation must comply with all other requirements of the fire code including those of FC504.4

Clarification of FC512.2[2]



Qualifying Encroachments:

- Attic ventilator
- Chimney
- Plumbing ventilation pipe
- Freestanding HVAC condenser with a capacity of 5 tons or more.

- Bulkhead
- Hatch
- Scuttle
- Skylight

Solar Panels are NOT considered to be a Qualifying Encroachment and may not limit the clear path

Pending code revision or rule promulgation, the Fire Department will implement FC512.2 by applying the following interim guidelines to rooftop clear path encroachments by permanent building features:

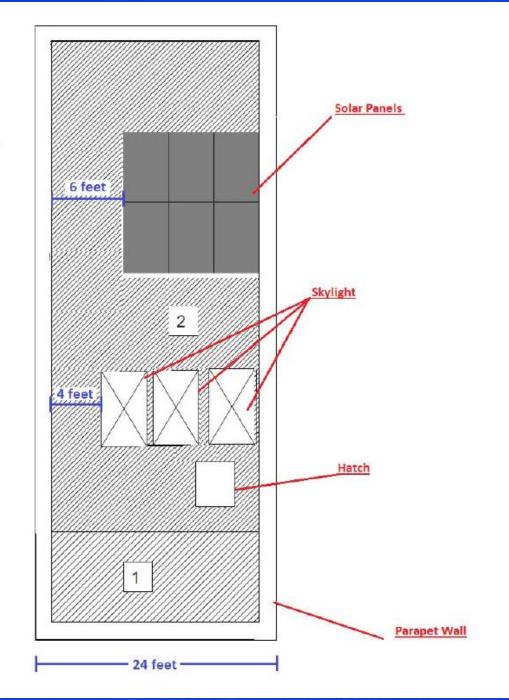


Frequently Asked Question #39 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code Guide http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/nyc-fire-code-guide.pdf

- 1. The building rooftop has a width or depth of not more than 25 feet; and
- 2. The filed plans indicate (in a note or other approved manner) that encroachment on the clear path is necessary to accommodate the design of the solar installation, which requires coverage across all or substantially all of one or more of the rooftop dimensions; and
- 3. Only the following permanent obstructions ("Qualifying Encroachments") may encroach upon and thereby reduce the clear path width at one or more locations: attic ventilators; bulkheads; chimneys; hatches; plumbing ventilation pipes; scuttles; skylights; and roof-mounted heating, air conditioning equipment; and
- 4. The 6-foot rooftop clear path width required by FC504.4 shall be provided and maintained across the rooftop in accordance with FC504.4, except that Qualifying Encroachments may encroach upon and reduce the width of such clear path up to 2 feet (24 inches). The Qualifying Encroachments are not limited in length or height, but shall not reduce the width of the clear path at any point to less than 4 feet (48 inches); and
- 5. The Qualifying Encroachments may not encroach upon the rooftop landing areas required by **FC504.4.3**, which shall be kept free of obstructions for the required six-foot by six-foot dimension; and
- 6. The rooftop solar panel installation is filed with the New York City Department of Buildings for full plan review in accordance with that agency's filing procedures (not under professional certification in lieu of plan review), or is filed with the Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Prevention for plan review in accordance with Fire Department filing procedures; and
- The solar panel installation complies with all other Fire Code requirements, including all other requirements of FC504.4.

The Department of Buildings will approve a solar panel installation with Qualifying Encroachments in the clear path (and the Fire Department will approve a rooftop access plan with such encroachments) if the plan meets these guidelines.

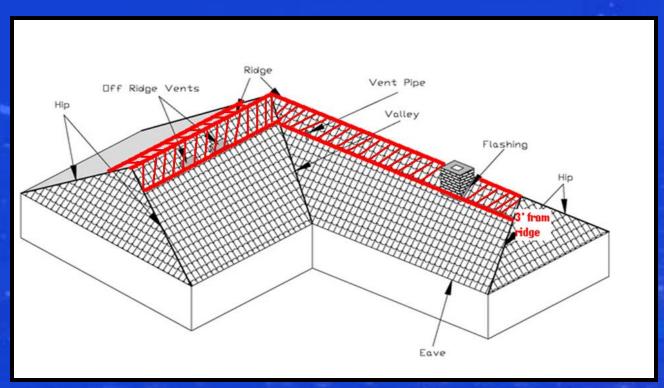
- 1 UNOBSTRUCTED ROOFTOP ACCESS LOCATIONS AND LANDINGS
- 2 CLEAR PATH CLEARANCES





FC512 Continued

- CITY OF MEW YORK
- Solar Panels on Pitched Roofs, greater than 20°
 - Provide 3 feet of clearance along BOTH sides of the ridgeline of each roof (FC 512.3.1 & FC 512.3.2)





Allowance for one or two family dwelling Summary of the guidelines:

One or two family dwelling whose slope is 9.5 degrees or greater do not have to comply with the requirements FC504.4; these rooftops instead must comply with FC512.3. Specifically solar panels shall not be installed within 3 feet of both sides of any ridgeline.

Accordingly, pending code revision or promulgation of a rule, the Fire Department will interpret FC504.4 and FC512.3 in accordance with the following interim guidelines:



Frequently Asked Question #35 of Chapter 5 of the Fire Code Guide http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/nyc-fire-code-guide.pdf

- 1.A one or two-family home with a shallow-pitched roof (a roof slope of not less than 2/12, or 9.5%) shall comply with FC512.3, not FC504.4.
- 2.A one or two family dwelling that is primarily a flat-roof building shall comply with FC504.4, even if a portion of the roof is shallow-pitched or has a pitch exceeding 20%. For example, a brownstone-type building shall comply with FC504.4, not FC512.3, notwithstanding it having a pitched roof element (such as a mansard) or a penthouse or bulkhead with a pitched roof.
- 3.A shallow-pitched or pitched portion of the building rooftop must be kept free of obstructions if it can be traversed to gain access onto, or across, the otherwise flat roof. Owners may request guidance from the Bureau of Fire Prevention as to the appropriate treatment of shallow-pitched or pitched portions of flat-roofed buildings.
- 4.3. This interim guideline shall not apply to shallow-pitched roofs on buildings other than one or two family dwellings (Occupancy Group R-3).

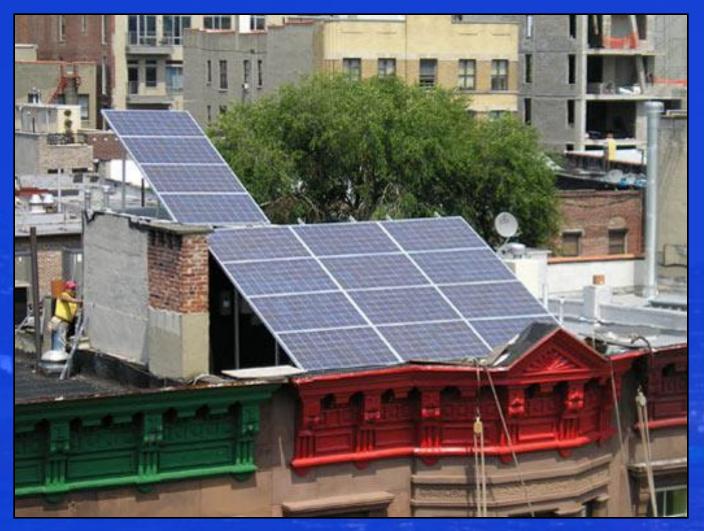
FC512 Continued



- Location of Panels & Markings (FC 512.4)
 - Locate conduits along dips and valleys away from ridge line (peaked roofs)
 - Solar panel equipment shall be labeled:
 "WARNING: PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SOURCE"
 in white capital letters no less than 3/8" in height on a red background

Non-Compliant Solar Roof





What requires an application?



Non-compliance, whether existing or proposed

- New equipment on a rooftop including: Cell Sites, Solar/PV Arrays, HVAC, Fencing
- Vertical Enlargements (penthouses, bulkheads, new floors)
- Accessory/Incidental use of roof: deck, bar, greenhouse
- Green Roofs, Blue Roofs

What does not require an application?



- Rooftop work on buildings over 100' in height
- Ordinary repair and maintenance on roofs which includes but not limited to:
 - Reroofing
 - Repair parapet
 - Façade repair
 - Like for like replacement of equipment NOT upgrade of equipment

To File An Application



- TM-5 Application
- \$420 plan examination fee
 - No new fee is required for resubmissions submitted within 6 months of the objection letter date.
- 11"x17" plans original seal & signature (3 sets)
- Narrative for scope of work
- Photographs of current conditions on rooftop Submit at Window #8, 9 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201

http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/pdf/fire_prevention/TM5.pdf



NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

9 METROTECH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NY 11201-3857

TM-5: APPLICATION FOR ROOFTOP ACCESS VARIANCE/PLAN REVIEW

- FDNY TM-5 must be typewritten, submitted with supporting documentation including a narrative (see Item 8 below), signed
 and sealed 11"X17" plan set for review, and photographs of the existing/proposed conditions on the rooftop.
- Section 11 must be signed by the owner.
- Fee for Plan Examination: \$420 made in money order or check, payable to NYC Fire Department.
- Submit completed application in person at Window #8 on the first floor of FDNY Headquarters, 9 METROTECH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NY 11201-3857.
- Consult the FDNY Technology Management Bulletin #2/2011 for specific plan preparation instructions.

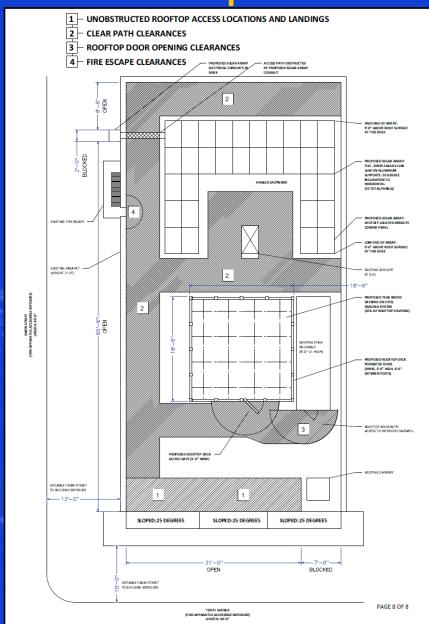
1	1 Filing Status (required for all applications):								
Varia	nce Sought for: Proposed	and/or Existing Co	ndition(s)						
li		submission (<i>provide pr</i> IMS No(s):	reviously a	ssigned FPIMS nun	nber, and att	ach copy	of objection letter):		
2	Premises Information (re	quired for all application	ıs):						
House	e No(s):		Street Name:						
Borough: ZIP:				Block: Lot:					
BIN:			Affected Floors:						
3	Applicant Information (re	equired for all application	ns):						
Last N	ast Name: First Name:			:		Middle Initial:			
Busin	ess Name:				Busines	Business Tel:			
Busin	ess Address:		City:		State:		ZIP:		
E-Mai	il:				License	License No:			
Choos	se One: P.E R.A								
4	Owner Information (requi	red for all applications):							
Last N	ast Name: First Name:				Middle	Middle Initial:			
Busin	ess Name:				Busines	Business Tel:			
Business Address:			City:		State:		ZIP:		
E-Mai	il:			Mobile	Mobile Tel:				
	Filia - Danas - Latin								
_	Filing Representative (if				_				
Last Name: First Name						Middle Initial:			
Business Name:					Busines	Business Tel:			
Business Address:			City:		State:		ZIP:		
E-Mai	il:				Expeditor Re	egistratio	n No:		



6	6 Joh Tupo (sourced for all applications shoots all that applications									
_	6 Job Type (required for all applications, choose all that apply):									
Ш	Telecommunications Antennas	and/or Equipmer		New Floor(s)						
П		Company Name: Number of Floors(if applicable):								
ш	Solar Array and/or Equipment Occupiable Rooftop Size of Array (No. of Panels): Rooftop Deck									
П	HVAC/MEP Equipment	-7-								
Ħ	Green Roof/ Blue Roof									
	•			,						
7 DOB Filing Status (required for all applications):										
Filed with DOB? NO										
YES ► Copy of PW-1, Schedule A and Certificate of Occupancy attached?										
(If yes above): DOB Application No(s):										
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,										
8	8 Nature of Modification (required for all applications):									
Compose a narrative description that addresses items 8a and 8b. Append the separate narrative to your submission packet.										
8a	Explain, in detail, the specific nature of the modification sought, and describe the difficulty in complying with the requirements of the Fire Code or Fire Department Rule(s).									
8b	Explain, in detail, how you propose to mitigate the effect of modifying the code or rule requirement. Include all measures intended to ensure public safety.									
	Previously filed FDNY Variance Application(s) for the aforementioned prop erty. Indicate either FPIMS No(s) or FPIN(s), and status of filing (granted/objections/denied):									
8d	Application submitted in response to an FDNY-issued violation, specifically for Rooftop Access/Obstructions? NO YES: (if yes, complete below the fields below) ▼									
	NOV/VO/Summons Number	DV/VO/Summons Number Description								
9	Building Characteristics a	nd Fire Protecti	on Features (required for all a	pplications):						
Occupancy Classification: Building Height (ft): Fully Sprinklered										
Cor	nstruction Classification:	Building Stories		Partially Sprinklered						
	Construction Date:		Stairs Leading to Roof (No): Non-Sprinklered							
		Fire Escape(s) to Roof? YES NO Standpipe Interior/Exterior Stair to Roof? YES NO Fire Alarm								
		interior/exterior	Stair to ROOF! TES NC	Fire Alarm						
10	Applicant Certification (re	quired for all applic	ations):							
Und	er penalty of perjury, I certify t	hat the informatio	n contained in this application i	is true, to the best	of my knowledge.					
Арр	licant Name (please print):									
	ature ►			Date:						
OIEII	ottile P									
11	Owner Statement (required for all applications, must be signed by owner):									
I have authorized the applicant to file this modification with respect to the premises.										
Owner Name (please print):										
Owr	ner Name (please print):									



Sample Plan - Flat Roof

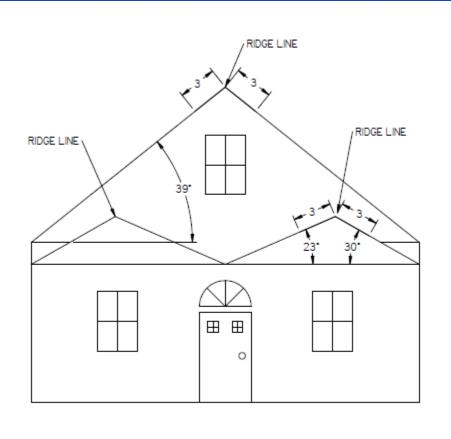


Include on 11x17 plans

- Entire rooftop, not only area of work proposed
- Label all existing building features
- Label all proposed work as "Proposed"
- Label all apparatus accessible exposures including parking lots
- Demonstrating compliance, showing required clearances
- State areas of non-compliance
- Proposed mitigation for noncompliance
- All submitted plans must have an original signature and PE/RA stamp

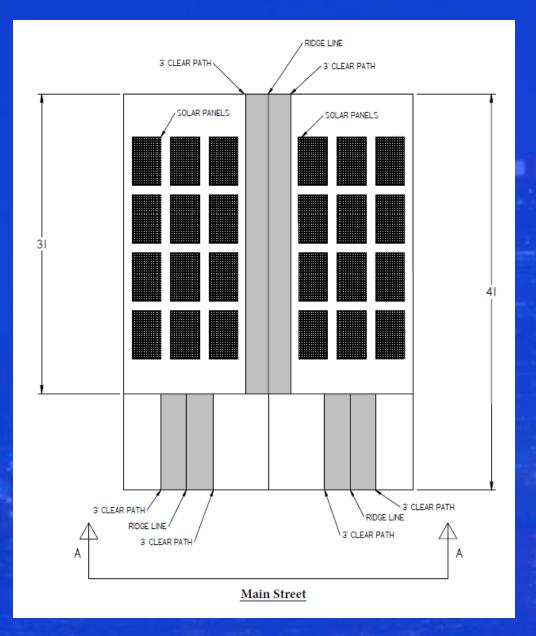
Sample Plan – Pitched Roof





VIEW A-A

Sample Plan – Pitched Roof









- <u>Fire Code Section FC504 and Section FC512:</u> in the NYC Fire Code, specifically regarding rooftop access and clear path.
- New York City Fire Code Guide (Formerly FAQs): posted on the Fire Department's web site in response to many of the industry's questions.
- Office of Technology Management Bulletin #2/2011 (Rev. 4/2016): This is a guidance document for the convenience of the public. It does not substitute for any applicable laws, rules or regulations.

Unit Contact Information



- Rooftop Access Unit Hotline: 718-999-1648
- Chief of Technology Management: Chief Thomas Pigott
- Supervisor of Rooftop Access Unit: Winnie Lei, P.E.
- Plan Examiners: John Ingenito, Fares Rezk, Gennadiy Lak and Erik Perez.
- FDNY Website (for bulletin and application)
- Mailing Address: Rooftop Access Unit, Tech MGMT, Room 3W-2,
 9 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201-3857



Resilient Solar (Solar + Battery Storage)

FDNY Filing Procedures

March 18th, 2019 Nicholas Petrakis, P.E.

Resilient Solar (Solar + Storage)



CUNY in conjunction with FDNY has drafted permitting process guidelines for Valve-Regulated Lead Acid (VRLA) and Outdoor Lithium Ion (available online)

Other chemistries will follow similar procedure, but pertinent information will vary based on technology

Each application evaluated on site by site basis





- Things that need to be taken into account
 - Size (what's needed and what hazards that would pose)
 - All nearby exposures
 - Gas Hazards (Toxicity and Deflagration)
 - Fire Protection Systems
 - FDNY connections?
 - FDNY response? (clean agent and water)
 - Certificate of Fitness Holder and SME
 - Emergency Response
 - Shutdown
 - Emergency signals
 - Actual emergencies
 - Vehicles
 - Disposal

Filing An Application





- TM-1 Application
- \$420 examination fee
- Plans Showing Proposed Location
- Narrative for scope of work
- Cut-sheets of system components
- Installation manuals
- UL Listings
- Other pertinent information

Types of Applications



- Outdoors
 - VRLA, Li-ion, flow batteries, etc.
 - Outdoor cells, cabinets and containers
- Indoors
 - VRLA and Lead Acid only



Review Process



- 1. Applicant submits all required paperwork
- 2. Once submitted, the application will be reviewed by FDNY
- 3. FDNY will contact the applicant to set up a joint site visit, conducted by Tech-Management and HazMat
- 4. FDNY will notify applicant of decision; if approved, a Letter of No Objection will be issued

Approval shall be obtained from NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) and all other agencies having jurisdiction



These requirements are subject to change

Building Information

- Building Construction type (Non-Combustible)
- Building Use and Occupancy
- Description of where ESS will be located (indoor, outdoor etc.)
- Use of proposed ESS location (parking garage, etc.)
- Available FDNY access to ESS
- Description of Ventilation system for entire building and in direct vicinity of proposed ESS location



Building Fire Protection Systems

- Description of water based suppression system, and for location of ESS (may require additional protection depending on technology)
- Standpipe hose outlet locations in close proximity to installation
- Emergency exit locations
- Fire hydrant locations





ESS Description

- System size (kWh and KW)
- Applicable product standards met
- Battery specific:
 - Number of Batteries
 - Chemistry
 - Voltage
 - UL Listings (UL 1973, UL 9540 etc.)
 - Cascading Protection



- Battery Encasement:
 - Number and type of racks
 - Cabinet information (if provided)
 - Ventilation for off gassing (if required)
- Inverter:
 - Size
 - Type
 - UL Listing
 - Monitors for: over current, over temperature, etc.



invertersrus.com



- Battery Management System (BMS):
 - Description of system
 - Monitors for: battery voltages, temperatures, current, etc.
- Safety measures:
 - Additional safety monitors not captured in the system description
 - Ex. Hydrogen sensors, ground fault protection, etc.
 - Sequence of events if malfunction happens at battery or system level
 - Explain how software detects malfunctions
 - Arc Fault Protection As per NEC 2014



- Process to shut down system
 - Rapid Shutdown As per NEC 2014
 - Location of Rapid Shutdown Switch
 - Use of software to shut down
 - List who has access to these systems



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- Specify any existing dangers
 - Ex. Isolation of the system does not remove any charge present in the batteries.
- Commissioning and De-commissioning plan

Unit Contact Information



- Director of Technology Management: Tamara Saakian, P.E.
- Administrative Project Manager: Leo Subbarao
- HazMat: Chief Richard Schlueck

Lieutenant Mark Becker

- Associate Project Manager: Nicholas Petrakis, P.E.
- Engineers: Eric Nette, P.E.

Yusef Esa

Ratan Roy, P.E.

Alexander Banc

• Tech Management Hotline: (718) 999 2405

Mailing Address: Fire

Fire Department of City of New York

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Technology Management

9 MetroTech Center, Third Floor, Room 3W-2

Brooklyn, NY 11201-3857