Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

23-37 - Other Open Area Regulations

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23-37 - Other Open Area Regulations

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

23-371 - Standard minimum distance between buildings

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the minimum distance between the portion of a #building# containing #residences# and any other #building# on the same #zoning lot# shall be as provided in this Section.

For the purpose of this Section, #abutting# #buildings# on a single #zoning lot# may be considered a single #building#. However, if two or more portions of a #building# are not connected or not #abutting# at a particular level, such separated portions shall comply with the applicable provisions of this Section. In applying such provisions, the height of such separated portions shall be measured from the roof of the connecting or #abutting# portion of such #building#, as applicable, instead of from the #base plane#.

(a) Exceptions

The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:

(1) #buildings# that are separated from each other by a #rear yard equivalent#; or

(2) space between a #single-family#, #two-family#, or three-family #residence# and a garage #accessory# thereto.

(b) For #single-# and #two-family residences#

For #buildings# with two or fewer #dwelling units#, the required minimum distance between any such #residences# and any other #building# with two or fewer #dwelling units# on the same #zoning lot#, or a non-#residential# #building# on the same #zoning lot# shall vary according to the height of such #buildings#. Such minimum distance shall be measured perpendicular to the #building# wall or window, as applicable. However, for #buildings# with two or fewer #dwelling units#, the required minimum distance between any such #residences# and an #ancillary dwelling unit# on the same #zoning lot# shall be 10 feet.

For #buildings# with two or fewer #dwelling units#, the required minimum distance between any such #residences# and a #building# with three or more #dwelling units# on the same #zoning lot# shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this Section.

	Maximum #Building# Height above #Base Plane# or #Cur Applicable (in feet)		
	35 or less	Between 35 and 50	Ove
Minimum distance	15	20	30

(c) For #buildings# that contain three or more #dwelling units#

The minimum distance between a #building# containing three or more #dwelling units# and any other #building# on the #zoning lot# shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of this Section. Where two or more portions of a #building# are separated completely from one another at a particular level above grade, such separated portions shall comply with paragraph (c)(1) of this Section. Where there are multiple #buildings# on a single #zoning lot# that do not connect at any level, such #buildings# shall comply with paragraph (c)(2) of this Section.

(1) For separated portions of a #building#

The required minimum distance between any separated portion of a #building# containing #dwelling units# shall be as follows:

(i) where #legally required windows# face onto a separated portion of a #building# at or below a height of 75 feet, the minimum dimension between such separated portions shall not be less than 20 feet, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, the minimum dimension shall not be less than 30 feet; and

(ii) where no #legally required windows# face onto a separated portion of a #building# at or below a height of 75 feet, the minimum dimension between such separated portions shall not be less than 10 feet, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, the minimum dimension shall not be less than 15 feet.

(2) Two or more #buildings# on a single #zoning lot#

The minimum distance between two or more #buildings# on the same #zoning lot# that are not connected at any level shall be 40 feet, as measured between the closest points of such #buildings#, for portions of #buildings# lower than 125 feet, as measured from the #base plane# or #curb level#, as applicable.

Portions of such #buildings# higher than 125 feet shall be at least 80 feet apart, as measured between the closest points of such #buildings#. However, such minimum distance need not exceed 40 feet if such portions of #buildings# above a height of 125 feet do not exceed, in aggregate, a #lot coverage# of 40 percent or, for lots of less than 20,000 square feet, the percentage set forth in the table below:

AGGREGATED LOT COVERAGE OF PORTIONS OF BUILDINGS ON A SMALL ZONING LOT

Area of #Zoning Lot# (in square feet)	**Maximum Percent of #Coverage#**
10,500 or less	50
10,501 to 11,500	49
11,501 to 12,500	48
12,501 to 13,500	47
13,501 to 14,500	46
14,501 to 15,500	45

15,501 to 16,500	44
16,501 to 17,500	43
17,501 to 18,500	42
18,501 to 19,999	41

(d) In addition, the following rules shall apply to:

(1) any portion of a #building# that qualifies as a #building segment# may be treated as a separate #building# for the purposes of determining the minimum distance required between such #building segment# and another #building# or #building segment#;

(2) where #buildings# of different heights face each other, the average of the heights of such #buildings# shall determine the minimum distance required between them;

(3) projections having a maximum height of 25 feet above adjoining grade, a maximum depth of five feet, and an aggregate width not exceeding 25 percent of the #building# wall from which they project, may penetrate the minimum spacing requirements. However, such projections shall not be permitted in open spaces provided pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this Section; and

(4) the obstructions permitted in Section 23-311 shall be permitted in such minimum distance.

23-372 - Distance between legally required windows and lot lines

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

The minimum distance between #legally required windows# and walls or #lot lines# shall be as set forth in this Section.

For the purposes of this Section, #abutting# #buildings# on the same #zoning lot# shall be considered a single #building#.

(a) Exceptions

This Section shall not apply to #legally required windows# in #buildings# containing #residences# with a maximum height of 35 feet, as measured from #base plane#, and with a maximum of three #dwelling units#.

(b) Basic provisions

The minimum distance between a #legally required window# and:

(1) any wall;

(2) a #rear lot line#, or vertical projection thereof; or

(3) a #side lot line#, or vertical projection thereof;

shall be 20 feet, measured in a horizontal plane at the sill level of, and perpendicular to, such window for the full width of the rough window opening.

The obstructions permitted for any #yard# set forth in Section 23-311 shall be permitted in such minimum distance.

(c) For shallow lots

For #interior lots#, where the depth is less than 95 feet deep at any point, the minimum distance between a #legally required window# and a #rear lot line#, or vertical projection thereof, may be modified to equal the #rear yard# depth required for shallow lots pursuant to the provisions of Section 23-342 (Rear yard requirements). However, in no event shall such minimum distance between a #legally required window# and a #rear lot line#, or vertical projection thereof, be less than 10 feet.

(d) Special provisions for R3 through R5 Districts

In R3, R4 and R5 Districts, the minimum dimension between a #legally required window# and a #side lot line# shall be 15 feet. Such 15-foot dimension shall be measured in a horizontal plane perpendicular to the #side lot line# or vertical projection thereof. Furthermore, such area with a 15-foot dimension shall be open from its lowest level to the sky for the entire length of the #side lot line#. Only #accessory# mechanical equipment limited in depth to 18 inches from an exterior wall, chimneys, downspouts, eaves, #qualifying exterior wall thickness#, gutters, open #accessory# off-street parking spaces, ramps for access by people with disabilities, and steps shall be permitted obstructions in such open area, subject to the conditions set forth in Sections 23-311 or 23-312, provided that such obstructions, not including #qualifying exterior wall thickness# and #accessory# mechanical equipment, will not reduce the minimum width of the open area by more than three feet.