



## Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

# **33-42 - Permitted Obstructions**

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## 33-42 - Permitted Obstructions

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LAST AMENDED

4/30/2012

In all #Commercial Districts#, the following obstructions shall be permitted and may thus penetrate a maximum height limit or #sky exposure planes#, as set forth in Sections 33-43 (Maximum Height of Walls and Required Setbacks), 33-44 (Alternate Front Setbacks) or 33-491 (Limited Height Districts):

- (a) Awnings and other sun control devices, provided that when located at a level higher than the first #story#, excluding a #basement#, all such awnings and other sun control devices:
  - (1) shall be limited to a maximum projection from a #building# wall of 2 feet, 6 inches, except when located on the first #story# above a setback;
  - (2) shall have solid surfaces that, in aggregate, cover an area no more than 30 percent of the area of the #building# wall (as viewed in elevation) from which they project; and
  - (3) may rise above the permitted #building# height, up to the height of a parapet wall or guardrail permitted in accordance with paragraph (j) of this Section.

When located on the first #story# above a setback, awnings and other sun control devices shall be limited to a projection of 50 percent of the depth of the required setback, and shall be limited, in total, to 50 percent of the width of the #building# wall from which they project;

- (b) Balconies, unenclosed, subject to the provisions of Section 24-166;
- (c) #Building# columns, having an aggregate width equal to not more than 20 percent of the #aggregate width of street walls# of a #building#, to a depth not exceeding 12 inches, in an #initial setback distance#, optional front open area, or any other required setback distance or open area set forth in Sections 33-43, 33-44 or 33-45 (Tower Regulations);
- (d) Chimneys or flues, with a total width not exceeding 10 percent of the #aggregate width of street walls# of a #building# at any given level;
- (e) Decks, and other surfaces for recreational activities, not more than 3 feet, 6 inches in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof as it existed on April 30, 2012, whichever is higher;
- (f) Elevator or stair bulkheads (including shafts; and vestibules not larger than 60 square feet in area providing access to a roof), roof water tanks and #accessory# mechanical equipment (including enclosures), other than solar or wind energy systems, provided that:
  - (1) such obstructions shall be located not less than 10 feet from the #street wall# of a #building#, except that such obstructions need not be set back more than 25 feet from a #narrow street line# or more than 20 feet from a #wide street line#. However, such restrictions on location shall not apply to elevator or stair bulkheads (including shafts or vestibules), provided the #aggregate width of street walls# of such bulkheads within 10 feet of a #street wall#, facing each #street# frontage, times their average height, in feet, does not exceed an area equal to four times the width, in feet, of the #street wall# of the #building# facing such frontage;
  - (2) all mechanical equipment shall be screened on all sides;
  - (3) such obstructions and screening are contained within a volume that complies with one of the following:
    - (i) the product, in square feet, of the #aggregate width of street walls# of such obstructions facing each

#street# frontage, times their average height, shall not exceed an area equal to eight times the width, in feet, of the #street wall# of the #building# facing such frontage; or

- (ii) the #lot coverage# of all such obstructions does not exceed 20 percent of the #lot coverage# of the #building#, and where the maximum permitted height of a #building# is less than 120 feet, such obstructions are limited to a maximum height of 25 feet, and where the maximum permitted height of a #building# is 120 feet or greater, such obstructions are limited to a maximum height of 40 feet.

For the purposes of this paragraph, (f), #abutting# #buildings# on a single #zoning lot# may be considered to be a single #building#;

- (g) Exterior wall thickness, up to eight inches, where such wall thickness is added to the exterior face of a #building# wall existing on April 30, 2012, provided the added wall thickness has a thermal resistance (R-value) of at least 1.5 per inch. Where #buildings# that have added exterior wall thickness pursuant to this Section are #enlarged#, such #enlarged# portion may similarly penetrate a maximum height limit in order to align with the exterior walls of the existing #building#, provided such #enlargement# contains less #floor area# than the existing #building#, and there is no penetration of #floor area# above a maximum height limit;
- (h) Flagpoles or aerials;
- (i) House of worship towers, ornamental, having no #floor area# in portion of tower penetrating such height limit or #sky exposure plane#;
- (j) Parapet walls, not more than four feet in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof as it existed on April 30, 2012, whichever is higher. A guardrail with a surface at least 70 percent open or with an opacity of not more than 30 percent (as viewed in elevation), shall be permitted above a parapet wall or within two feet of a parapet wall, provided such guardrail is not more than four feet above the accessible level of a roof. Such restriction on guardrail height shall not apply when located beyond two feet from a parapet wall;
- (k) Roof thickness, up to eight inches, to accommodate the addition of insulation, for #buildings# or portions of #buildings# constructed prior to April 30, 2012. For a #building# that has added roof thickness pursuant to this paragraph, an #enlargement# may align with the finished roof surface of such #building#, provided the #enlarged# portion does not exceed the maximum height limit by more than eight inches;
- (l) Rooftop greenhouses, permitted pursuant to Section 75-01 (Certification for Rooftop Greenhouses);
- (m) Skylights, clerestories or other daylighting devices, not more than four feet in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof as it existed on April 30, 2012, whichever is higher. Such devices shall be limited to a #lot coverage# not greater than 10 percent of the #lot coverage# of the roof and be located at least eight feet from the #street wall# edge. However, such devices shall not be permitted obstructions above a roof with a slope greater than 20 degrees;
- (n) Solar energy systems:
  - (1) on the roof of a #building#, up to four feet in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof, whichever is higher;
  - (2) on the roof of a #building#, greater than four feet in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof, whichever is higher, provided that all such portions above four feet are set back at least six feet from a #street wall#, limited to a #lot coverage# not greater than 25 percent of the #lot coverage# of the roof and do not exceed:

- (i) in #Commercial Districts# mapped within R1 through R5 Districts and in C3 and C4-1 Districts, a height of six feet;
  - (ii) in all other #Commercial Districts# and #Commercial Districts# mapped within R6 through R10 Districts, a height of 15 feet; and
  - (iii) when located on a bulkhead or other obstruction pursuant to paragraph (f) of this Section, a height of six feet;
- (3) on walls existing on April 30, 2012, projecting no more than 10 inches and occupying no more than 20 percent of the surface area of the #building# wall (as viewed in elevation) from which it projects.

However, any installation on a roof with a slope greater than 20 degrees shall be limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface;

- (o) Spires or belfries;
- (p) Vegetated roofs, not more than 3 feet, 6 inches in height, excluding vegetation, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof as it existed on April 30, 2012, whichever is higher. On roofs with slopes greater than 20 degrees, vegetated roofs shall be limited to a height of 12 inches measured perpendicular to such roof surface;
- (q) Weirs, check dams and other equipment for stormwater management, not more than 3 feet, 6 inches in height, as measured from the maximum height limit, or the finished level of the roof as it existed on April 30, 2012, whichever is higher;
- (r) Wind energy systems on portions of #buildings# with a height of 100 feet or greater, provided that:
  - (1) the highest point of the wind turbine assembly does not exceed 55 feet;
  - (2) no portion of the wind turbine assembly is closer than 10 feet to any #lot line#; and
  - (3) in districts where new #residences# or new #joint living-work quarters for artists# are allowed as-of-right or by special permit or authorization, or within 100 feet of such districts, the diameter of the swept area of the rotor does not exceed 15 feet;
- (s) Window washing equipment mounted on a roof;
- (t) Wire, chain link or other transparent fences.