

Sidewalk Sheds

Construction Equipment



Photo: Samantha Modell

Sidewalk sheds are erected over sidewalks and pedestrian walkways to protect pedestrians from debris that could fall from construction work above the sidewalk. They are temporary structures that keep sidewalks open for foot traffic and allow businesses to operate during construction.

Building Code

The NYC Building Code outlines conditions that require sidewalk sheds to be installed. Sidewalk shed requirements contemplate building height and elevation of construction work above the shed, and can be required when construction equipment is operated above the sidewalk. Standards are also prescribed for the construction and specifications of sheds.

Board of Standards and Appeals

Standard sheds prescribed by the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) in the meeting minutes of BSA #351-74-SM may be filed with the Department by an unlicensed applicant. If the shed is based on a BSA approved design, minimum design loads and specific member sizes, spans and spacing must be highlighted.

Related Construction Equipment

Other types of construction equipment commonly filed in conjunction with sidewalk sheds include supported scaffolds, which rest on top of a sidewalk shed, safety netting, hoists, cranes, derricks and chutes.

This publication is an overview of the requirements for this type of work. There may be additional, applicable Zoning Resolution, Construction Code, Multiple Dwelling Law or Energy Code requirements.

FIRST STEPS

- PW1 – job description, reason for sidewalk shed, length of frontage
- Zoning district, site designations (*special purpose districts, waterfront area or block, flood hazard area, fire district, landmark district, little 'e' DEP designated block, wetlands, 200' within transit authority infrastructure*)
- Lot diagram, scope and area of work indicated, location of traffic signals shown
- Height of the building
- Light / heavy duty classification indicated

ADMINISTRATIVE

DOB Forms

- **PW1** – Only Approved BSA sheds may be filed by an owner or contractor as non-Directive 14 application
- **TR1** – by RA / PE for final inspection if Directive 14 application

Technical Documents

- BSA #351-74-SM minutes

Related Applications

- Electrical application for required lighting under sidewalk shed
- Separate application for New Building, Alteration or Demolition
- Separate scaffold application if supported on sidewalk shed

BIS Required Items

- N/A

ZONING

- N/A

MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW

- N/A

FIRE CODE

- N/A

BUILDING CODE

Minimum Information on Plans Required – BC [§3307.6.4](#), [§3307.6](#), [3301.9](#)

- Height of the building
- Width of the sidewalk
- Distance of the building from the sidewalk (street line)
- Sidewalk shed dimensions: width, length, height
- Shed extension and coverage past the building – BC [§3307.6.3](#)
- Passageway ceiling height – BC [§3307.6.4.7](#)
- Design load – BC [§3307.6.4.2](#)
- BSA minutes if designed according to BSA standards – BC [§3307.6.4.1](#)
- Sidewalk shed that acts as a base for a scaffold cannot use BSA design
- Construction material of the shed including the decking – BC [§3307.6.4](#)
- Member size and spacing – BC [§3307.6.4.4](#)
- Any required structural analysis – BC [§3307.6.4](#)
- Parapet requirements – BC [§3307.6.4.6](#)
- Sidewalk shed lighting requirements – BC [§3307.6.4.8](#)
- Required signage on shed and parapet panel – BC [§3301.9.2](#)

- Safety netting where applicable – BC [§3308.5](#)
- Accessibility Requirements – BC [§3307.2.6](#)
- Warning signs, personnel and barriers – BC [§3307.4](#)
- Maintenance and inspection requirements – BC [§3307.6.5](#)
- Daily Inspection requirements BC [§3307.6.5.10](#)

ENERGY CODE

- N/A

ELECTRICAL CODE

- Sidewalk shed lighting requirements – EC §590.8

APPLICABLE BULLETINS, DIRECTIVES, PPNS, MEMOS

- BSA #351-74-SM Minutes
- [TPPN 9/99 – Sidewalk Shed Applications](#)
- [BB 2013-011](#) – Action plan for extreme weather
- [BB 2015-018](#) – Anchors into masonry

OTHER AGENCY APPROVALS

- DOT: approval required if shed extends beyond sidewalk into the street