



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI AND DOB SPOT CHECK CONSTRUCTION SITES IN FOUR BOROUGHES TO VERIFY IF
CRANE OPERATORS ARE PROPERLY LICENSED; COMPLIANCE THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOUND**

Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced that investigators from DOI, assisted by investigators from the City Department of Buildings ("DOB"), fanned out across four boroughs today to conduct random, impromptu checks of mobile and tower cranes at various construction sites to verify that individuals operating cranes at those sites were properly licensed according to New York City regulations. Crane operators may hold a class A, B or C Hoist Machine Operator ("HMO") license.

DOI initiated today's proactive enforcement action in response to questions about whether crane operators were properly licensed. Ten teams of two investigators each visited approximately 49 construction sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. There were a total of 47 cranes - tower and mobile cranes - in operation at various of the sites visited. All of the crane operators investigators met with were found to have the proper license.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's sweeping enforcement action is both a proactive safety measure and a strong deterrent message. Unlicensed crane operators, or anyone working at a construction site who should be licensed, and is not, places his co-workers and any New Yorker walking by the site at risk. DOI partnered with investigators from the Buildings Department to spot-check crane operators, on-the-job and without any advance warning. The encouraging news is that this operation did not uncover any violators. Fourteen tower crane operators and 33 mobile crane operators were asked to provide their licenses. All of them had the proper license, which is both terrific and a relief. While we are heartened by this result, we will remain vigilant in this area and on all issues relating to compliance with DOB regulations. I thank the Buildings Department for their assistance and support in today's important operation."

DOB Acting Commissioner Robert LiMandri said, "This successful joint operation shows that the crane industry is hearing our critical message - public safety must be the top priority. Workers need to have the necessary experience and skills to operate these complex pieces of machinery, and we are going to continue to work with the Department of Investigation and other agencies to ensure the industry complies with safety regulations. Today's results are a step in the right direction to better protecting this City."

If investigators had found any crane operators who were not properly licensed, they would have been issued a violation that carries a \$1,600 fine. In addition, DOB would have issued partial stop work orders at those sites, shutting down crane operations at those locations. A DOI investigator and an inspector from DOB's Cranes and Derricks Division would have to return to the site and verify that the crane operator is properly licensed before the partial stop work order could be lifted.

During the course of conducting this Citywide examination of crane operator licenses, investigators found an expired permit for operation of a tower crane at 600 W. 42nd St. The certificate of approval for operation of a tower crane at that site had expired on July 3, 2008. A partial stop work order was issued to DiFama Concrete Inc. for operation of that crane and a violation, called an Environmental Control Board violation, was issued to Federated Crane Co. LLC, the owner of the crane.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanks DOB Acting Commissioner Robert LiMandri, and members of his staff, especially the Internal Audits and Discipline Unit, which participated in this enforcement action.

This operation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOB, Michael Carroll, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kim Ryan and Special Investigator Sadie Lopez, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner John B. Kantor.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**