Commercial Kitchen Exhaust System Meeting

March 26, 2019

NYC
Bill de Blasio
Mayor

FDNY
Daniel A. Nigro
Commissioner
Speakers

1. INTRODUCTION:
   Deputy Assistant Chief, John Buckheit

2. DECAL PROGRAM ROLLOUT:
   Executive Director of Licensing, Steve Ertrachter

3. CODE DEVELOPMENT:
   Fire Code Counsel, Julian Bazel

4. TECHNICAL:
   Chief Inspector, David Franco
Opening Remarks

DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF
John Buckheit
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LICENSING

Steve Ertrachter
Decal Program
NEW! Orders that are placed from April, will have years 2019, 2020, and 2021!
Data

- Between June 7th, 2018 and March 11th, 2019:
  - 320,000 DECALS ordered
  - Each order consisted of 2000 DECALS or more
  - 879 COF stamps
Program Benefits

**SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM FDNY HAS:**

- Received more company applications than the previous year.
  - **Last year:** FDNY had a total of 17 new companies total for the calendar year.
  - **This year:** From January 1st to March 15th we have already received 11 new companies.
Program Benefits

- Dedicated staff who is in constant contact with companies and decal manufacturer:
  - Waiting period for approvals has been reduced to 1-3 days from 2-4 weeks
Program Benefits

- FDNY has been able to minimize or end business operations of companies who have lost FDNY recognition.
- Reduced fraud and illegal activities.
  - Inspectors and field units are able to more easily recognize legitimate companies from illegal companies.
  - FDNY has identified several possible fraudulent companies and technicians under active investigation.
Improper Transfer of Decals

- Transfer of Rangehood Decals from one person or company to another is prohibited

- Any transfer of your decals is illegal

- If anyone wants your rangehood decals, please report it to FDNY immediately: Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov
Company Renewals Tips

Commercial Kitchen Exhaust

Companies should do the following:

- **Application**
  - Submit renewal application (from FDNY website) and required documents
  - List every employee at the company on the application
  - Submit the $50 application renewal payment
  - Every company needs a minimum of at least 1 principal and 1 employee (both need a valid COF)
Company Renewals Tips

Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Companies should have:

- **Insurance**
  - Company insurance has to be A- or better
  - Insurance has to be current, if insurance is expiring company must send an updated copy of the policy
  - Insurance issuance date must be within 30 days
  - FDNY has to be the certificate holder (listed on the insurance)
  - P.O. Boxes are unacceptable
Company Employees

- Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company Employees must have W-64/P-64 Certificate of Fitness
  - Every employee (including helpers) that are on-site must have a valid W-64/P-64 Certificate of Fitness.
  - FDNY allows COF applicants to bring foreign language dictionary for test taking purposes.
Certification of Fitness Stamp

- Every employee performing the servicing must have their own COF stamp
  - Only 1 COF stamp is required to be applied at a work site;
  - If decal does NOT have the COF stamp, the decal will be deemed non-compliant;
  - Typically, the COF stamps are produced and arrive much quicker than Decals.
  - COF Stamp price is the same during bulk and on-demand period.
Commercial Kitchen
Exhaust Company Vehicles

■ Pursuant to Fire Department Company Certificates Rule, 3 RCNY § 115-01 (d)(9)(D) : “The company shall possess all tools, materials and equipment required to safely clean and service commercial cooking exhaust systems, including ladders, lighting equipment, scraping and washing equipment, cleaning materials, and vehicle(s) marked with the company name and company certificate number.”

■ The vehicle compliance going into effect June 1st, 2019
ALL Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Company vehicles MUST display the following information on both sides of their company vehicle:

- Full Company name as recognized by the FDNY
- Complete company business address
- “COMMERCIAL COOKING EXHAUST SYSTEM SERVICING COMPANY”, which may be abbreviated to “Comm Cooking Exhaust Service”.
- “FDNY Certificate #” (FDNY approved company list number).
Commercial Kitchen Exhaust

Company Vehicles

- Information shall be permanently and conspicuously marked (magnetic signs are not acceptable);
- Size of characters must be at least 3 inches in height;
- In contrasting color with that of the vehicle.
Commercial Kitchen Exhaust
Company Vehicles
Sample Company Vehicle
Company Vehicle Q&A

- Can I use a mini van, such as Honda Odyssey or similar? Does the vehicle need to be a of certain size? (R)

  - As long as the vehicle can fit all the required equipment to perform the work, it’s allowed. However, based on the NYS DMV requirements, the vehicle needs to be modified to be commercial:

  - [https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/vehicle-modifications-and-registration-class](https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/vehicle-modifications-and-registration-class)
Company Vehicle Q&A

- Does the vehicle need to have a commercial license plate and commercial insurance? (R)
  - In New York State, vehicles used for the commercial purposes need a Commercial Vehicle Registration. Since the vehicle will be used by a company holding FDNY Company Certificate for commercial purposes, the vehicle is commercial and required the commercial registration.

- [https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/description/commercial-vehicle-registration](https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/description/commercial-vehicle-registration)
If I have Fire Department Certificates for 2 separate Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing Companies, must they both be marked on the commercial vehicle?

YES, if the vehicle(s) is being used for both businesses, you must display the two FDNY certificate numbers (and any other applicable information).
Company Vehicle Q&A

- Can I use my personal vehicles to conduct Commercial Cooking Exhaust System servicing? (R)
  - NO, all Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing activities must be conducted with a company approved vehicle in accordance with FDNYY requirements.
Company Vehicle Q&A

- Do the markings on the commercial vehicles need to be removed if I am no longer using the vehicle(s) for business or if I get out of the Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing business?
  - YES, the markings must be removed from any vehicles that are not being used for Commercial Cooking Exhaust Servicing activities.
  - FDNY needs to be notified about this in writing.
Company Vehicle Q&A

- Does the Fire Department need proof that your Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing vehicle is compliant with vehicle marking requirements?
  - YES, submit the photos of both sides of the vehicle to FDNY Public Certification Unit at Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov.
  - The deadline to submit picture is **May 15th, 2019**, however in case corrections are required to be made submit the proof earlier.
Company Vehicle Q&A

- **What happens if the Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Servicing Company does NOT comply with commercial vehicle requirements?**
  - Your company certificate may be suspended and you will not be able to conduct business starting June 1st and until everything is in compliance.
Non-Compliance Decals

- FDNY is working with manufacturer to create and manufacture non-compliance decals.

- Non-Compliant decal proposed language is:
  
  “This exhaust system was NOT cleaned or serviced as required by the NYC Fire Code section 609.4.1. This condition is a hazard. FDNY has been notified of this system’s Non Compliant status. System must be corrected immediately.”
The non-compliance decal will be similar to compliant decal, however the information on it will be different. They will be valid for 3 years. 2021 will be added.
Mobile App

- **NEW!** FDNY is working on building an innovative and efficient mobile application for reporting servicing.
- **Work in progress** – updates coming in few weeks!
Mobile App

- **Development** of the application would be completely paid for by the FDNY.
- **Maintenance** of the application still to be determined.
- FDNY is currently looking for 5-7 Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning companies to participate in a focus group.
- Anyone interested companies let us know by April 1st, via e-mail: Tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov.
Company Penalties For Violations

Suspension:
- Companies and COFs
  - Suspension of Company Recognition

Revocation:
- Companies and COFs
  - Revocation of Company Recognition

Decal purchase rights:
- If the company is suspended/revoked or if insurance is expired, the decal and COF stamp ordering is NOT allowed.
- The remaining supply of decals & COF stamps must also be returned to FDNY
2019
Decal Order and Delivery Schedule
# Order and Delivery Schedule

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FIRE CODE COUNSEL

Julian Bazel
Code Development
Frequency of Cleanings

- How frequently do commercial cooking exhaust duct systems need to be cleaned?
Recent Grease Fires

- There has been an increase in serious commercial kitchen duct fires caused by grease and accumulation around the city.
- Duct fires in food establishments as a result of grease accumulation affect not only the food establishment, but the building above and neighboring buildings.
609.4.1 Exhaust system inspection and cleaning. The Fire Code requires the entire exhaust system **be inspected and cleaned at least once every 3 months** by a person **holding a certificate of fitness**.

- Surfaces shall be **cleaned to bare metal**.
Fire Code Inspection/ Cleaning Requirements

There are 2 exceptions to the rule:

- Commercial cooking equipment utilizing solid fuel shall be inspected monthly by a trained and knowledgeable person, and cleaned by a certificate of fitness holder as necessary but not less frequently than once every 3 months.

- Vertical portions of interior and exterior vertical ducts in excess of three stories in height shall be cleaned at least every 6 months by a person holding a certificate of fitness. Horizontal portions of such ducts, including all elbows, shall be inspected and cleaned in accordance with this section.
How Often is Cleaning Needed?

- **Light cooking?**
  - Example: Breakfast grill

- **Modest cooking?**
  - Example: Deli

- **Heavy cooking?**
  - Examples: Burger restaurant, fast-food establishment, meat grilling/rotisserie, frying/cooking in oil.

- **Precipitators**
  - Based on the type of cooking and/or design of the precipitator?
How Often is Cleaning Needed?

- Section A.11.6.2 of NFPA 96-2014 and Section 9.1.3 of ANSI/IKECA Standard C10-2011) uses a depth gauge comb, to measure the amount of grease build-up.

- The depth gauge comb recommends cleaning of the ducts and fans when there is grease build-up of as little as one-thirteenth inch (.078”), and deems a grease build-up of one-eighth inch (.125”) to require immediate cleaning.

- **Is this a reasonable standard?**
How Often is Cleaning Needed?
CHIEF INSPECTOR

David Franco
Technical Requirements
Technical Requirements

- Responsibilities
- Liabilities
- Expectations
- Penalties
- Contact Information
Technical Requirements

- Responsibilities

Check for:

- Leaks, seams, joints, access panels, signage, fans and proper insulation
Technical Requirements

- Liabilities
  - Legal issues
  - FDNY summonses to business owners
Technical Requirements

- **Expectations**
  - Complete servicing of the entire exhaust system
Technical Requirements

Penalties

- Potential suspension,
- Loss of Certificate of Fitness and ability to do business in NYC
- Loss of Revenue
Technical Requirements

- Any report of deficiencies should be accompanied by photographs and forwarded to FDNY’s Rangehood Unit (within 5 days):
  Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov

- Rangehood Unit Contact Information:
  Palacios, Jose M. - JoseM.Palacios@fdny.nyc.gov
  Prokipchuk, Fred - Fred.Prokipchuk@fdny.nyc.gov
  Mendez, Glenn - Glenn.Mendez@fdny.nyc.gov
Q&A
Please raise your hand

Please speak when microphone is in your hand (so everyone can hear);

State your name and company before your question;

Keep questions short and to the point;

Please limit 1 question per person.
Comments?

- Follow-up, questions and suggestions:
  - Focus group and/or non-compliance decals
  - E-mail to us: tags.Decal@fdny.nyc.gov