

SERVICE NOTICE

Amendments to Retaining Wall Rule

Beginning March 23, 2025, amendments to the NYC Department of Buildings rule for Retaining Wall Inspections, Filing Requirements, Penalties, and Waivers ([1 RCNY 103-09](#)) will be in effect.

These amendments include:

1. Increased Civil penalties for non-compliance

- Failure to file an acceptable report increases from \$1,000 per year to \$5,000 per year
- Late filing of a report increases from \$250 per month to \$1,000 per month
- New one-time penalty of \$2,000 for failure to correct conditions classified as SREM (safe with repairs and/or engineering monitoring).

2. No separate DOB approval required for assessment program

Qualified Retaining Wall Inspectors (QRWIs) are no longer required to submit a separate assessment program to DOB before implementing the inspection program. Instead, QRWIs will be required to utilize a professional standard of care to design and implement a program that allows for complete inspection and critical examination of the retaining wall being assessed and complies with [1 RCNY 103-09](#).

3. Other changes

- Establishes requirements for photo documentation and mapping of conditions that are unsafe, safe with minor repairs or safe with repairs and/or engineering monitoring
- Establishes guidelines for report filing classifications
- Clarifies the requirements for unsafe and subsequent reports
- Simplifies the process for requesting a time extension for completing repairs.

Review [amendments to 1 RCNY 103-09](#) for details.

Civil Penalties

Review the [October 1, 2024 Civil Penalties for Failure to File Retaining Wall Report Service Notice](#) for instructions on how to pay, challenge, or waive civil penalties.

Additional information

For instructions on how to file the retaining wall compliance report, review the [January 30, 2023 Industry Notice](#). Review [NYC Administrative Code §28-305.4](#) and [1 RCNY Section 103-09](#) and visit the [Retaining Wall](#) page at nyc.gov/buildings for more information about retaining wall inspection requirements.

For additional assistance, submit an inquiry to LretainingWalls@buildings.nyc.gov.