

## **Residential Truss Construction**

Title 19 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York is amended by adding a new Part 1265 to read as follows:

### **PART 1265. Residential Structures with Truss Type Construction, Pre-Engineered Wood Construction and/or Timber Construction.**

#### **Section 1265.1. Introduction.**

Section 382-b of the Executive Law provides that any person utilizing truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction for the erection of any new residential structure, for any addition to an existing residential structure, or for any rehabilitation of an existing residential structure, shall, upon application for a building permit with the local government having jurisdiction, include on the permit application that truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction is being utilized, and that the property owner or the property owner's representative shall complete a form prescribed by the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (hereinafter referred to as the Code Council) designating the structure as truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction and file such form with the application for a building permit. Section 382-b of the Executive Law further provides that as a condition of the final receipt of a certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion, a sign or symbol designed and approved by the Code Council shall be affixed to any electric box attached to the exterior of the structure, if such an electric box exists. This Part prescribes (1) the form to be used by the property owner or property owner's representative to designate a residential structure as truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction and (2) the sign or symbol to be affixed to the exterior electric

box, if any, of a residential building that utilizes truss type, pre-engineered wood and/or timber construction.

### **Section 1265.2. Applicability.**

(a) This Part shall apply to the construction of each new residential structure and to each addition to or rehabilitation of an existing residential structure, when:

(1) truss type construction, pre-engineered wood construction, and/or timber construction is utilized in such construction, addition or rehabilitation, and

(2) such construction, addition or rehabilitation (i) was commenced on or after January 1, 2015 or (ii) was commenced prior to January 1, 2015 and was not completed prior to January 1, 2015.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (a) of this Section, this Part shall not apply in any city having a population in excess of one million persons.

### **Section 1265.3. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this Part, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) ADDITION. The term “addition” shall mean an extension or increase in floor area or height of a residential structure.

(b) AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION. The term “authority having jurisdiction” shall mean the city, town, village, county, agency or other governmental unit responsible for administration and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code with respect to the subject residential structure.

(c) BCNYS. The term “BCNYS” shall mean the publication which is entitled Building Code of New York State and which is incorporated by reference in Part 1221 of this Title.

(d) **ELECTRIC BOX.** The term “electric box” shall mean the box, if any, mounted on the exterior of the residential structure at the service point (as that term is defined in section E3401 of the RCNYS).

(e) **EXISTING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE.** The term “existing residential structure” means a residential structure that is already in existence at the time an addition or rehabilitation is commenced, without regard to the date of original construction of the residential structure.

(f) **NEW RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE.** The term “new residential structure” means a residential structure constructed on or after January 1, 2015. For the purposes of this definition, a date of construction of a residential structure shall be deemed to be the date of completion of the original construction of such residential structure, and a residential structure shall be deemed to be a “new residential structure” if the original construction of such residential structure (1) was commenced on or after January 1, 2015 or (2) was commenced prior to January 1, 2015 and was not completed prior to January 1, 2015.

(g) **PRE-ENGINEERED WOOD CONSTRUCTION.** The term “pre-engineered wood construction” shall mean construction that uses, for any load-supporting purpose(s), girders, beams, or joists made using wood components (or wood-based components) that are bonded together with adhesives (including, but not limited to, prefabricated wood I-joists, structural glued laminated timbers, structural log members, structural composite lumber, and cross-laminated timber).

(h) **RCNYS.** The term “RCNYS” shall mean the publication which is entitled Residential Code of New York State and which is incorporated by reference in Part 1220 of this Title.

(i) **REHABILITATION.** The term “rehabilitation” shall mean any repair, renovation, alteration or reconstruction work undertaken in an existing residential building.

(j) RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE. The term “residential structure” shall include one-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, and townhouses (as those terms are defined in the publication entitled RCNYS) and structures or portions of structures classified as Residential Group R in accordance with Chapter 3 of the BCNYS (excluding, however, hotels and motels which are classified as Group R-1 or R-2 occupancy in accordance with Chapter 3 of the BCNYS and which are subject to the provisions of Part 1264 of this Title).

(k) TIMBER CONSTRUCTION. The term “timber construction” shall mean construction that uses, for any load-supporting purpose(s), solid or laminated wood having the minimum dimensions required for structures built using type IV construction (HT) in accordance section 602.4 of the BCNYS.

(l) TRUSS TYPE CONSTRUCTION. The term “truss type construction” shall mean construction that uses, for any load-supporting purpose(s), a fabricated structure of wood or steel, made up of a series of members connected at their ends to form a series of triangles to span a distance greater than would be possible with any of the individual members on their own. Truss type construction shall not include (1) individual wind or seismic bracing components which form triangles when diagonally connected to the main structural system or (2) structural components that utilize solid plate web members.

**Section 1265.4. Notice to be given to authority having jurisdiction.**

(a) When truss type construction, pre-engineered wood construction, and/or timber construction is to be utilized in the construction of a new residential structure or in an addition to or rehabilitation of an existing residential structure, the owner of such structure, or the owner’s duly authorized representative, shall notify the authority having jurisdiction of that fact. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be provided to the authority having jurisdiction with the application for a building permit. In

the case of a construction, addition or rehabilitation project commenced prior to January 1, 2015 and not completed prior to January 1, 2015, such notice shall be given as soon as practicable after January 1, 2015 and in any event prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy or certificate of compliance for such project.

(b) (1) The form to be used to give the notice required by subdivision (a) of this section shall be substantially similar to the following, with all applicable lines checked and all blanks filled in with the appropriate information:

NOTICE OF UTILIZATION OF TRUSS TYPE CONSTRUCTION, PRE-  
ENGINEERED WOOD CONSTRUCTION AND/OR TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

To: [insert name of authority having jurisdiction]

Owner: [insert name of owner of the subject property]

Subject Property: [insert street address and tax map number, if any, of the subject property]

Please take notice that the (check applicable line):

- ☐ new residential structure
- ☐ addition to existing residential structure
- ☐ rehabilitation to existing residential structure

to be constructed or performed at the subject property reference above will utilize (check each applicable line):

- ☐ truss type construction (TT)
- ☐ pre-engineered wood construction (PW)
- ☐ timber construction (TC)

in the following location(s) (check applicable line):

\_\_\_ floor framing, including girders and beams (F)

\_\_\_ roof framing (R)

\_\_\_ floor framing and roof framing (FR).

Date: [insert date form is signed]

Signature: [signature of person submitting form to the authority having jurisdiction]

Name: [print or type name of person signing and submitting form]

Capacity: [insert "Owner" or "Owner's Representative" as applicable]

(2) An authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to prescribe its own form to be used to give the notice required by subdivision (a) of this section, provided that such form requests at least same information as the form prescribed in paragraph 1 of this subdivision.

#### **Section 1265.5. Sign or symbol.**

(a) When truss type construction, pre-engineered wood construction, and/or timber construction is utilized in the construction of a new residential structure or in an addition to or rehabilitation of an existing residential structure, such residential structure shall be identified by a sign or symbol in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

(b) The sign or symbol required by this Part shall be affixed to the electric box attached to the exterior of the residential structure; provided, however, that:

(1) if affixing the sign or symbol to the electric box would obscure any meter on the electric box, or if the utility providing electric service to the residential structure does not allow the sign or symbol to be affixed to the electric box, the sign or symbol shall be affixed to the exterior wall of the residential structure at a point immediately adjacent to the electric box; and

(2) if no electric box is attached to the exterior of the residential structure or if, in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, the electric box attached to the exterior of the building is not located in a place likely to be seen by firefighters or other first responders responding to a fire or other emergency at the residential structure, the sign or symbol required by this Part shall be affixed to the exterior of the residential structure in a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction as a location likely to be seen by firefighters or other first responders responding to a fire or other emergency at the residential structure.

(c) The sign or symbol required by this Part shall be affixed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or a certificate of compliance. The authority having jurisdiction shall not issue a certificate of occupancy or certificate of compliance until the sign or symbol required by this Part shall have been affixed.

(d) The property owner shall be responsible for maintaining the sign or symbol required by this Part and shall promptly replace any such sign or symbol that is affixed to an electric box when any change or modification is made to such electric box. The property owner shall promptly replace the sign or symbol required by this Part if such sign or symbol is removed or becomes damaged, faded, worn or otherwise less conspicuous to firefighters or other first responders responding to a fire or other emergency at the residential structure. The property owner shall keep the area in the vicinity of the sign or symbol required by this Part clear of all plants, vegetation, and other obstructions that may hide or obscure such sign or symbol or otherwise cause such sign or symbol to be less conspicuous to firefighters or other first responders responding to a fire or other emergency at the residential structure.

(e) The sign or symbol indicating the utilization of truss type construction, pre-engineered wood construction and/or timber construction shall comply with the requirements of this subdivision.

(1) The sign or symbol shall consist of a circle six inches (152.4 mm) in diameter, with a stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). The background of the sign or symbol shall be reflective white in color. The circle and contents shall be reflective red in color, conforming to Pantone matching system (PMS) #187.

(2) The sign or symbol shall be of sturdy, non-fading, weather-resistant material; provided, however, that a sign or symbol applied directly to a door or sidelight may be a permanent non-fading sticker or decal.

(3) The sign or symbol shall contain an alphabetic construction type designation to indicate the construction type of the residential structure, as follows:

(i) if the residential structure is subject to the provisions of the RCNYS, the construction type designation shall be “V” and

(ii) if the residential structure is subject to the provisions of the BCNYS, the construction type designation shall be “I”, “II”, “III”, “IV” or “V” to indicate the construction classification of the structure under section 602 of the BCNYS.

(4) The sign or symbol shall contain an alphabetic location designation to indicate the location(s) containing truss type construction, pre-engineered wood construction and/or timber construction structural components, as follows:

(i) “F” shall mean floor framing, including girders and beams;

(ii) “R” shall mean roof framing; and

(iii) “FR” shall mean floor framing and roof framing.

(5) The construction type designation shall be placed at the 12 o'clock position of the sign or symbol, over the location designation, which shall be placed at the six o'clock position of the sign or symbol.



**Section 1265.6. Notification, consultation, and warning.**

(a) Upon receipt of a form indicating that truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction is to be used in a residential structure, the authority having jurisdiction shall notify the chief of the fire district, fire department or fire company having jurisdiction over the structure of that fact.

(b) The chief of the fire district, fire department, or fire company having jurisdiction over the residential structure to be erected, added to, or modified, or his or her designee shall use the information so provided to warn persons conducting fire control and other emergency operations of the existence of truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction in the structure.

(c) The local building department or local code enforcement official for the authority having jurisdiction shall consult with the county fire coordinator, local 911 and emergency dispatchers, and the local fire protection provider or entity deemed pertinent to determine the manner sufficient to warn persons conducting fire control and other emergency operations of the existence of truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction in the structure.

**Section 1265.7. Enforcement.**

Subdivision 4 of section 382-b of the Executive Law directs local governments to provide for enforcement of section 382-b of the Executive Law. Enforcement of section 382-b of the Executive Law shall include, but shall not be limited to, enforcement of the provisions of this Part.

**Section 1265.8. General Municipal Law section 205-b.**

Nothing contained in this Part shall in any way affect or diminish section 205-b of the General Municipal Law.