

REQUIREMENTS FOR WINDOW LIMIT/GUARD DEVICES

IN NYC PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 24 CHAPTER 12.

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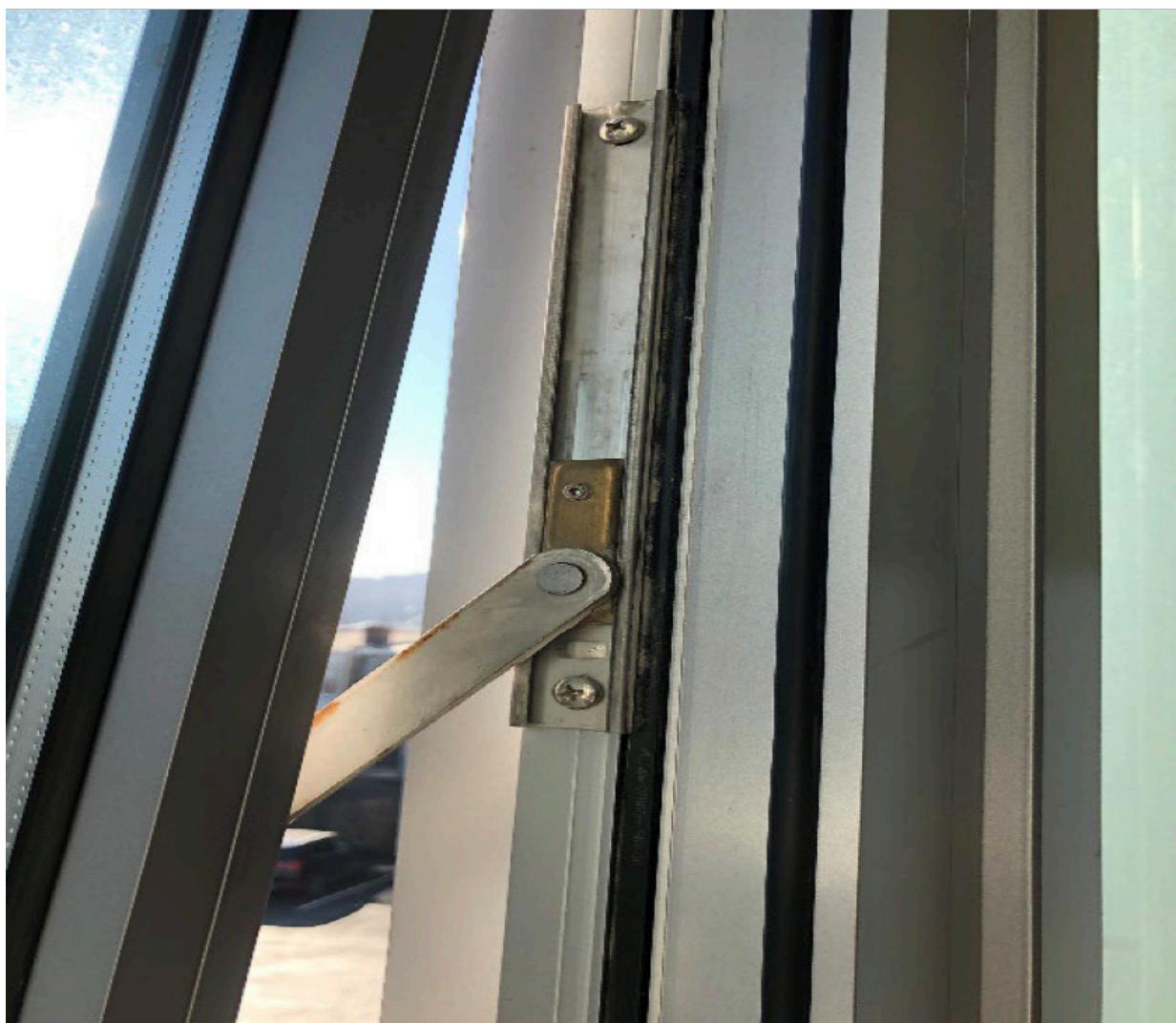
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Introduction

If you've ever heard the song "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton, you may know the history behind it. In 1991, Conor, Clapton's son fell out of a window on the 53rd floor apartment in New York City. As a result, Clapton went on a mission to make sure this never happened to any other child again. He began a crusade across the city to have devices installed that prevent children from falling out of windows. The devices have several names: child guards, window guards, limit arms, etc.

Across the United States, there are an estimated 4,700 injuries or deaths associated with window falling. To help prevent as many deaths as possible, windows are required to have a limit stop affixed to them. A window cannot open more than 5 inches in order to prevent a child from squirming through it. These guards prevent 96% percent of falls.



During the late 60s, it was found in a survey (done in New York City) that around 61 percent of children's deaths happened as a result of falling from windows. Most of these deaths occurred in the Bronx and Manhattan.

Window Guards have existed since 1976 (Health Code Section 131.15) in order to prevent young children from falling out of open windows. As the years passed and the laws changed and were amended, causing the decrease of falling related deaths in children. In New York City alone, the number decreased from 175 to 2 deaths per year.

Glossary



Limit Device: A type of child guard installed on a window that stops the window from opening more than five (5) inches.

Child or Children: Any person that is age 10 and younger.

Department: New York City Department of Health. Also known as the Window Falls Prevention Program. (Chapter 12 NYCHC 131.15).

Window Guard Installation: Proper installation and maintenance of window guards in a manner approved by the Department.

Landlord: The owner, agent, or other person who controls either dwelling, whether it is business or residential.

Tenant: Those who reside regularly in the dwelling mentioned above, whether for business or residential.

Limit Guard Testing: Testing a local testing agency can provide to ascertain either a flaw or the success of child guards.



HDLD Number: Health Department Limit Device. This is an etched number into the Limit Arm, providing that it is approved.

Tamper Proof Screws: Screws that are difficult, possibly even impossible, to fiddle with without the matching screwdriver. Tamper resistant screws will always have a matching screwdriver. Please note, tamper proof is sometimes a misnomer. Not everything is 100 percent tamper proof and only tamper resistant.

Shop Drawing: The architectural drawings of the windows that are involved in the limit arm process.

Telescoping Bar: Adjustable bars used to meet specific requirements of various enclosures.

5 Inch Ball: Metal ball used to test pressure and distance in the window opening. If the ball can squeeze through, then so can a child's head.



Materials & Procedure

Once they are requested, window guards may, under no circumstances, be refused. According to the NYC Department of Health, "In order to be effective and in compliance, guards must be properly installed in sound tracks with approved screws and stopping devices. There may not be more [than] 4 ½ of open, unguarded space in any window opening." (Understanding the Basics 2).

With that in mind, Window Falls Prevention Submission must include:

- o Smallest and largest sample of each model
 - o A schematic drawing of the window guard
 - o Installation hardware and stopping devices for each model
 - o Installation instructions for each type of window guard
 - o Professional Engineer's certificate and sign off of the testing results
 - o A letter from the paint manufacturing providing the lead content in the paint
 - o Manufacturer's identification number and/or coding
 - o Manufacturer's dating code
-

When approved, the Health Department Approval Number must be etched on a flat surface of the window guard. It must be visible from inside the room. A pack that contains the approved hardware, screws, and stopping device must be attached for each window guard. (Understanding the Basics 20).

The letter of application must be submitted to the Window Guard Policy and Acceptance Board of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Understanding 21). It must include:

- o Name, address, telephone number
- o Address of premises or premises of which the guards were requested for along with the type and number of windows involved
- o The reason for the request along with photos or mechanical drawings of the windows in question. These must be full schematics.
- o An alternative device must be included. It must meet the same criteria as the original device submitted.
- o One-way screws or approved tamper-proof mechanisms.
- o An application that commits to regularly scheduled inspections and an alternate

Misc.

Other Information:

- Guards must be rigid metal and free of sharp or rough surfaces and able to bear weight of 150 lbs.

- Testing must be certified by a professional engineer or an independent testing laboratory

- Permanent labels must be on one horizontal bar on the surface reading, "WARNING!

EXTENSION OF THIS GUARD BEYOND __ INCHES IS DANGEROUS AND

ILLEGAL" The number will be appropriate to the model.

- Guards must be a minimum of fifteen (15) inches high.

- Coating of guards must be unleaded.

- Each Guard must come with the following:

- Approved installation instructions

- Approved stops

- Specified screws for installation of guard and stops (22-26).

Window guards must be installed in all windows except the fire escape access windows and a secondary egress window in a first-floor apartment. One limit device will be installed at the top and a second at the bottom of all casement windows sixty (60) inches greater in height and/or width. (Window Guards 2).

Test Criteria & Standards

The Test Criteria/Standards

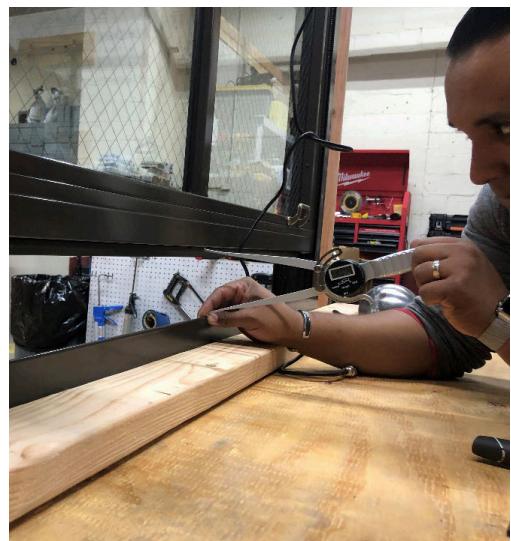
Per requirements of the NYC Department of Health Falls prevention, the following test requirements must be met:

- Windows to be tested on site or in-lab.
- Open, close, and lock window 5 (five) times.
- Apply a minimum steady force to sash in open position to 150 lbs.
- Maintain force while attempting to pass a 5" sphere through opening at 5 (five) locations. The locations are once at the top of the sash, three at the side of the sash, and one at the bottom of the sash.
- Inspection and photographing of all fasteners on limit device when window is in open position to confirm they are tamper proof.
- Providing video through secure internet link as well as on DVD or memory stick..
- Electronic report with results and certification by a NYSE PE

Gallery



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