## Chicago Facade Ordinance Summary

### YEAR ENACTED
1996. Major revisions in 2000 and 2007. Rules and regulations that supplement the Ordinance were revised March 1, 2016.

### ORDINANCE OR LAW
Maintenance of Exterior Walls and Enclosures, Critical Examination Ordinance

### CODE
Municipal Code of Chicago

### SECTION
Section 13-196-031 through 13-196-039

### ADMINISTERED BY
City of Chicago Department of Buildings

### ADDRESS
Department of Buildings  
121 N. LaSalle, Room 900  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Exterior Wall Program  
2045 W. Washington  
Chicago, IL 60612

### TELEPHONE NUMBER
312.744.3449

### NUMBER OF BUILDINGS AFFECTED
2,000

### FREQUENCY AND DUE DATE OF REPORTS
Critical exam required every 4, 8, or 12 years depending on building classification and ongoing inspection at midway point of critical exam cycle -or- under the March 1, 2016 Rules and Regulations, owners may choose to file Ongoing Inspection and Repair Program (“Short Form”) reports every second year and not file Critical Examination Program reports at category mandated frequencies, regardless of building category, provided that none of the following criteria apply:

- The building is vacant or subject to registration as required by Section 13-12-125 or 13-12-126 of the Code
- The building is the subject of an active case in the Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings or an outstanding order of compliance by the Chicago Department of Administrative Hearings for a violation of sections 13-196-033 through 13-196-038 of the Code; or is the subject of an active case by the City in the Circuit of Cook County or an outstanding order of compliance or consent decree by the Circuit Court of Cook County for violations of the Code
- The building has been classified as “unsafe and imminently hazardous” in the most recently filed report
- The owner of the building is more than one (1) year delinquent in filing an Ongoing Inspection and Repair Report “Short Forms”

### WHICH BUILDINGS ARE SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE?
All buildings 80 feet or more in height.

### ACCEPTABLE INSPECTORS
Illinois licensed architects and structural engineers or personnel under their direct supervision.
EXTERIOR WALL SUBJECT TO INSPECTION
Critical examination: close-up examination at a minimum of one (1) drop along each public way spanning not less than 24 feet. Light courts may also require close-up examination depending on configuration and ingress/egress. Visual survey of the remaining facade portions from afar is acceptable unless close-up inspections are recommended by a professional.

Ongoing Inspection and Repair Program: Visual survey of the all facades from afar is acceptable unless close-up inspections are recommended by a professional.

METHOD OF INSPECTION
For critical examination: hands-on, close-up inspection shall be performed where required. For on-going inspections, visual surveys from afar are acceptable unless close-up inspections are recommended by a professional. Substrate inspection may also be required depending on material and building age.

FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE
Minimum $1,000/day
Maximum $2,500/day