

Boston Facade Ordinance Summary

YEAR ENACTED

1995 (most recently amended in July 2022)

ORDINANCE OR LAW

Ordinance 9.9-12

CODE

Supplemental to the Massachusetts State Building Code

SECTION

Same as ordinance section above

ADMINISTERED BY

Inspectional Services Department

ADDRESS

1010 Massachusetts Avenue
5th Floor
Boston, MA 02118

TELEPHONE NUMBER

617.635.5300

FREQUENCY AND DUE DATE OF REPORTS

5 years, every year for unoccupied structures

WHICH BUILDINGS ARE SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE?

Any exterior wall of a building over seventy (70') feet in height, or classified as a high rise structure, or (2) any exterior wall of an unoccupied building, of over thirty-five thousand (35,000) cubic feet

EXEMPT BUILDINGS

Residential buildings that are classified as three family, two family, or single family, except as required by the Commissioner

ACCEPTABLE INSPECTORS

A Commonwealth of Massachusetts licensed Professional Engineer experienced in the practice of structural engineering or a licensed Registered Architect knowledgeable in the design, construction, and inspection of building facades.

EXTERIOR WALL SUBJECT TO INSPECTION

All walls

HIGH RISE DEFINITION

Buildings that are 7 stories or more. In addition, the International Building Code defines a high rise as a building with an occupied floor located more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access

METHOD OF INSPECTION

The methods used to inspect a building shall permit a physical, hands-on inspection of the building. The Registered Professional may use other methods of inspection as deemed appropriate, including the use of digital imaging, video and drone technology appropriate to complete a comprehensive inspection, except that a physical inspection from a scaffold or other observation platform is required for a representative sample of the exterior wall. The Registered Professional shall determine what constitutes a representative sample.

FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

\$300/day



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