



## **New York City – Bicycle Access Law**

The new Bicycle Access Law (Section 28-504 of the Administrative Code) will take effect at the end of December 2009. The law will require all building owners and managers to allow tenants and their employees to bring bicycles into a commercial building via freight elevators. The bill was signed into law by Mayor Bloomberg on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Specific procedures and forms are currently being developed by the Department of Transportation, but building owners and managers should note the following details regarding the law in preparation for its becoming effective this coming winter.

### *Applicable Buildings*

This law applies to all New York City office buildings that have a compliant freight elevator.

### *Request Forms*

A tenant or subtenant of a building may request in writing on a form provided by the DOT that the owner, lessee, manager or other person who controls the building complete a bicycle access plan. The plan must be in accordance with the DOT's required format.

### *Bicycle Access Plan*

A mandatory bicycle access plan must include, at minimum: the location of entrances; route to freight elevators that accommodate bicycle access; the route to a designated area for bicycle parking if such is made available; other information as the department may require.

Bicycle access to the tenant space via the building freight elevator is allowed during freight elevator hours only, and the building owner/manager is not required to provide bicycle storage. All bicycles must be stored within tenant premises.

### *Exemptions*

Bicycle access need not be provided if there is sufficient secure alternate covered off-street or sufficient secure alternate indoor no-cost bicycle parking available on the premises or within three (3) blocks or seven hundred fifty feet of the building. The alternate space must be able to accommodate all tenants or subtenants of the building that are requesting bicycle access.

If the building cannot accommodate bicycles using the freight elevator because of unique circumstances directly related to the use of such elevator, the owner/manager could be exempt from complying with the requirement.

The NYC Department of Transportation will be releasing more information regarding the new law as it becomes available.