
CITY OF CHICAGO

RULES



DEMOLITION BY IMPLOSION



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS

BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 2-29-040 AND 2-30-030 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF CHICAGO, THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING DEMOLITION BY IMPLOSION ARE ADOPTED HEREIN.

By Order of the Executive Director:

Signed: 
Rich Guidice
Executive Director

Date: 4-6-21

Published: April 9, 2021
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RULES REGARDING DEMOLITIONS BY IMPLOSION

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

Rule No. 1. For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“Code” means the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Office of Emergency Management and Communications or his or her designee.

“Department” or “OEMC” means the Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

ARTICLE II – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Rule No. 2. The Department shall convene a meeting between the applicant and all relevant City departments to review the comprehensive plan, and the use of explosives may not proceed unless each relevant City department approves of the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan shall include all component plans as required by ordinance. For purposes of this rule, the term “relevant City department” includes but is not limited to, the Department of Buildings, the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Department of Fire, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Streets and Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Water Management.

Rule No. 3. The meeting between the applicant and all relevant city departments shall take place either in-person or remotely as determined by the Executive Director. In addition to the representatives of the relevant City departments, the meeting shall also include any City departments or sister agencies with facilities in the immediate area of the demolition, as determined by the Executive Director, including but not limited to the Department of Family and Support Services, Chicago Public Schools, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Rule No. 4. The applicant shall provide written proof that all major utility companies (i.e. water, gas, steam, electric, and telecommunications) and any other critical infrastructure resources within the immediate vicinity, as determined by the Executive Director, have been notified of the blasting and have not objected.

Rule No. 6. Each relevant department or agency represented at the meeting shall provide the Office of Emergency Management and Communications with written approval, signed by the department or agency’s commissioner or designee, of the applicant’s comprehensive plan. Relevant departmental approval shall be submitted to the OEMC no more than 30 days after the meeting.

Rule No. 7. The OEMC shall present the Department of Buildings and the applicant with written notification of approval of the comprehensive plan, and a date or range of dates for a valid license to be issued to conduct the demolition. The date or range of dates shall not be less than 90 days after the date on which the initial application was filed with the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, **nor less than 30 days after the applicant's public meeting.**

Rule No. 8. Neither this nor any other review, approval or acceptance of any submission required under these rules shall constitute a representation, warranty or guaranty by the City as to the substance or quality of the matter reviewed, approved or accepted and shall not be **construed to operate as a waiver or estoppel of any of the City's rights or privileges or any of the City's cause of action arising out of the resulting demolition.** No Person shall have any right to rely in any way on the City's review, approval or acceptance of any submission. The applicant and its Contractor(s) shall be and remain liable for all damages to the City caused by the applicant, the contractor or the services or materials provided by the applicant and/or contractor. Review, approval or acceptance by the City shall not constitute approval otherwise required by any City department, board, commission, or other regulatory agency in the exercise of such department's, board's, commission's or agency's independent regulatory authority or police powers under applicable law.

ARTICLE III – DESIGNATING AND OPERATING THE INCIDENT COMMAND POST

Rule No. 8. The Executive Director shall coordinate an incident command post on the date explosives will be used. The incident command post shall have representatives from the OEMC, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department, and of any other City department as determined by the Executive Director.

Rule No. 9. The applicant shall submit to the incident command post a signed certification and day-of check list that all protective measures required under the approved comprehensive plan are in place and operational.

Rule No. 10. The on-scene Incident Commander has the authority to suspend operations at any point on the date explosives will be used.

ARTICLE IV – COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION OF USE OF EXPLOSIVES

Rule No. 11. The applicant shall provide two community notifications, no less than 7 and no more than 30 days prior to the date explosives will be used. The first community notice shall be sent by mail or by door hanger to all addresses within one-mile radius of the site where explosions are to be used. The second community notice shall be posted at the implosion site and shall be posted (with the permission of the officials or entities in control of the locations) or shall be provided for posting in all of the following locations that are within one-mile radius of the site where explosions

are to be used: all libraries, park district buildings, any other government facilities open to the general public, and the ward service office of any alderman.

The geographic boundary for providing notifications may be expanded by the Executive Director as needed on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with other City departments and sister agencies.

All notifications shall be provided in English and the Executive Director may, at his or her discretion, require translation into other languages that may be spoken by a significant number of individuals residing within the notification area. All written notifications must include the date, time, and location that explosives are to be used, as well as safety precautions the residents and visitors to the area should consider.

ARTICLE V – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule No. 12. Nothing in these Rules is intended to limit the powers or authority of the City of Chicago, the Department, or the powers or authority of any other City agency; nor are these Rules intended to relieve any person or entity from full compliance with any other provisions of the Municipal Code of Chicago or other rules and regulations promulgated by the Department or any other City department.

Rule No. 13. Penalties for violations of these rules shall be as provided in the Municipal Code of Chicago.

Rule No. 14. The Executive Director reserves the right to suspend, repeal or amend these Rules at any time in accordance with law.

Rule No. 15. The provisions of these Rules are severable. If any part of these Rules, in whole or in part, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, that declaration shall not affect the part or parts which remains.

Rule No. 16. Any application, plan, and documentation required to be submitted to the Department under any provision of these Rules shall be complied by submitting such application, plan or documentation to the Department.