

ORDINANCE 26-2023
BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 145 ENTITLED, "LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS" REQUIRING INSPECTIONS OF CERTAIN RENTAL DWELLINGS FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS AS MANDATED BY P.L. 2021, C.182

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey enacted N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.1 et seq. known as the "Lead Hazard Control Assistance Act" which established lead-based paint testing programs for residential rental properties; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.16 now requires all municipalities to inspect single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwellings located within the municipality, subject to certain exceptions, on a recurring basis and at tenant turnover for lead-based paint hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopatcong has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to amend the Borough Code to require such inspections to conform with State law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopatcong, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 145 entitled, "Lead-Based Paint Inspections" be added to the Code of the Borough as follows:

SECTION 1. Part II, General Legislation, of the Borough of Hopatcong Code is hereby amended to add new Chapter 145, entitled "Lead-Based Paint Inspections" to read as follows:

Chapter 145 Lead-Based Paint Inspections

§ 145-1 Definitions.

The following terms shall have the meanings indicated below pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.16 as may be amended and which is incorporated by reference.

DUST WIPE SAMPLING

A sample collected by wiping a representative surface and tested in accordance with a method approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

TENANT TURNOVER

The time at which all existing occupants vacate a dwelling unit and all new tenants move into the dwelling unit.

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

A visual examination for deteriorated paint or visible surface dust, debris, or residue.

§ 145-2 Inspections.

Subject to the exceptions set forth in this Chapter, the Construction Code Official, a designee, or a certified lead evaluation contractor hired by the Borough shall inspect every single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwelling located within the Borough at tenant turnover for lead-based paint hazards or by July 22, 2024, whichever is earlier. Thereafter, all such units shall be inspected for lead-based paint hazards the earlier of every three years or upon tenant turnover, except that an inspection upon tenant turnover shall not be required if the owner has a valid lead-safe certification. The owner of any such rental dwelling shall not permit any tenant turnover without first complying with this Chapter. The Borough shall charge the dwelling owner or landlord, and the dwelling owner or landlord shall pay the Borough in advance of any inspection, a fee sufficient to cover the cost to the

Borough of the inspection, which shall be dedicated to meeting the costs of implementing and enforcing this Chapter.

§ 145-3 Option for Owner/Landlord to Hire Lead Evaluation Contractor.

The dwelling owner or landlord may directly hire a lead evaluation contractor who is certified to provide lead paint inspection services by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to satisfy the requirements of § 145-2 instead of the Borough conducting the inspection. In the event that a dwelling owner or landlord directly hires such a lead evaluation contractor, the term "Construction Code Official" shall also mean and include such lead evaluation contractor for purposes of this Chapter (except for the purposes of § 145-13).

§ 145-4 Consultation with Local Health Board.

The Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor responsible for inspecting single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwellings pursuant to this Chapter may consult with the local health board, the State of New Jersey Department of Health, and/or the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs concerning the criteria for the inspection and identification of areas and conditions involving a high risk of lead poisoning in dwellings, methods of detection of lead in dwellings, and standards for the repair of dwellings containing lead paint.

§ 145-5 Exceptions for Inspections.

Notwithstanding any language in § 145-2 to the contrary, a dwelling unit in a single-family, two-family, or multiple rental dwelling shall not be subject to inspection and evaluation for the presence of lead-based paint hazards if the unit:

- A. has been certified to be free of lead-based paint;
- B. was constructed during or after 1978;
- C. is in a multiple dwelling that has been registered with the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as a multiple dwelling for at least 10 years, either under the current or a previous owner, and has no outstanding lead violations from the most recent cyclical inspection performed on the multiple dwelling under the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law (N.J.S.A. 55:13A-1, et seq.);
- D. is a single-family or two-family seasonal rental dwelling which is rented for less than six months duration each year by tenants that do not have consecutive lease renewals; or
- E. has a valid lead-safe certification issued in accordance with this section.

§ 145-6 Remediation.

If the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor finds that a lead-based paint hazard exists in a dwelling unit upon conducting an inspection pursuant to § 145-2, then the owner of the dwelling unit shall remediate the lead-based paint hazard by using abatement or lead-based paint hazard control methods approved in accordance with the provisions of the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.1 et al.). Upon the remediation of the lead-based paint hazard, the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall conduct an additional inspection of the unit to certify that the hazard no longer exists. The Construction Code Official shall charge an additional fee sufficient to cover the cost to the Borough for such additional inspection.

§ 145-7 Lead-Safe Certification.

If the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor finds that no lead-based paint hazards exist in a dwelling unit upon conducting an inspection pursuant to § 145-2 or following remediation of a lead-based paint hazard pursuant to § 145-6, then the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead

evaluation contractor shall certify the dwelling unit as lead-safe on a form prescribed by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as provided for in regulations or guidance promulgated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.20. The lead-safe certification provided to the property owner by Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall be valid for two years.

§ 145-8 Production of Lead-Safe Certification.

Beginning on July 22, 2024, property owners shall:

- A. Provide evidence of a valid lead-safe certification obtained pursuant to this section as well as evidence of the most recent tenant turnover at the time of the cyclical inspection carried out under the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law (N.J.S.A. 55:13A1, et seq.), unless not required to have had an inspection by the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor pursuant to sections A, B, or C of § 145-5;
- B. Provide evidence of a valid lead-safe certification obtained pursuant to this section to new tenants of the property at the time of tenant turnover unless not required to have had an inspection by the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor pursuant to sections A, B, C, and D of § 145-5, and shall affix a copy of such certification as an exhibit to the tenant's or tenants' lease; and
- C. Maintain a record of the lead-safe certification which shall include the name or names of the unit's tenant or tenants, if the inspection was conducted during a period of tenancy, unless not required to have had an inspection by the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor pursuant to sections A, B, C, and D of § 145-5.

§ 145-9 Notification to Commissioner of Community Affairs.

If the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation finds that a lead-based paint hazard exists in a dwelling unit upon conducting an inspection pursuant to this Chapter, then the inspector shall notify the Commissioner of Community Affairs, who shall review the findings in accordance with the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.8).

§ 145-10 Inspection of Two- or Three-Dwelling Units.

If a lead hazard is identified in an inspection of one of the dwelling units in a building consisting of two- or three-dwelling units, then the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall inspect the remainder of the building's dwelling units for lead hazards, with the exception of dwelling units that have been certified to be free of lead-based paint. The Construction Code Official may charge an additional fee sufficient to cover the cost to the Borough of the inspection.

§ 145-11 Fees.

In addition to the fees charged for inspection of rental housing as set forth in this ordinance, the Borough shall assess an additional fee of \$20.00 per unit inspected for the purposes of the Lead Hazard Control Assistance Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.1, et seq.) concerning lead hazard control work, unless the unit owner demonstrates that the Department of Community Affairs already has assessed an additional inspection fee of \$20.00 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.10. In a common interest community, any inspection fee charged pursuant to this section shall be the responsibility of the unit owner and not the homeowners' association, unless the association is the owner of the unit. The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the "Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund" established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.4.

§ 145-12 Inspections as a Result of Testing of Children of Six Years of Age or Younger.

- A. If less than three percent (3%) of children tested in the Borough, six years of age or younger, have a

blood lead level greater than or equal to five ug/dL, according to the central lead screening database maintained by the State of New Jersey Department of Health pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2-137.6, or according to other data deemed appropriate by the commissioner (as such term is used in and for the purposes of N.J.S.A. 52:27D- 437.16), then the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor may inspect a dwelling located therein for lead-based paint hazards through visual assessment.

- B. If at least three percent (3%) of children tested, six years of age or younger, have a blood lead level greater than or equal to five ug/dL, according to the central lead screening database maintained by the State of new Jersey Department of Health pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1995, c.328 (C.26:2-137.6), or according to other data deemed appropriate by the commissioner, then the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall inspect a dwelling located therein through dust wipe sampling.
- C. If a lead hazard is identified in an inspection of one of the dwelling units in a building consisting of two- or three- dwelling units, then the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall inspect the remainder of the building's dwelling units for lead hazards, with the exception of dwelling units that have been certified to be free of lead-based paint. The Construction Code Official may charge fees in accordance with this section for such additional inspections.

§ 145-13 Penalties.

The Borough and the Construction Code Official, designee, or certified lead evaluation contractor shall be authorized to conduct investigations and issue penalties to enforce a property owner's failure to comply with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.16 or this Chapter. If the Borough or the inspector determines that a property owner has failed to comply with a provision of N.J.S.A. 52:27D-437.16, et seq. or this section regarding a rental dwelling unit owned by the property owner, the property owner shall first be given thirty (30) days to cure any violation by conducting the required inspection or initiate any required remediation efforts. If the property owner has not cured the violation after thirty (30) days, the property owner shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 per week until the required inspection has been conducted or remediation efforts have been initiated.

SECTION 2. All other provisions unaffected by this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

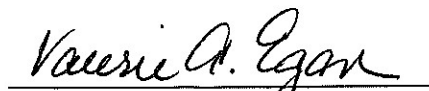
SECTION 3. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed.

SECTION 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or a portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall become effective after second reading and publication as required by law.

Attest:

BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG



Valerie A. Egan, Municipal Clerk



Michael Francis, Mayor

Introduced: 10/4/2023

Adopted: 10/18/2023

LEGAL NOTICE OF FINAL ADOPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that the above Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopatcong, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, held in the municipal building on the 4th day of October 2023, and the same came up for final passage at a meeting of the said Borough Council on the 18th day of October 2023 at which time, after persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, the same was passed and will be in full force in the Borough according to law. By order of the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopatcong, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey.



Valerie A. Egan, Municipal Clerk