



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

33-45 - Tower Regulations

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 11/15/2024

33-45 - Tower Regulations

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

33-451 - In certain specified Commercial Districts

LAST AMENDED
3/22/2016

C4-7 C5-2 C5-3 C5-4 C5-5 C6-4 C6-5 C6-6 C6-7 C6-8 C6-9

In the districts indicated, any #buildings# or portions thereof which in the aggregate occupy not more than 40 percent of the #lot area# of a #zoning lot# or, for #zoning lots# of less than 20,000 square feet, the percent set forth in Section [33-454](#) (Towers on small lots), may penetrate an established #sky exposure plane#. (Such #building# or portion thereof is hereinafter referred to as a tower.) At any given level, except where the provisions set forth in Section [33-455](#) (Alternate regulations for towers on lots bounded by two or more streets) or [33-456](#) (Alternate setback regulations on lots bounded by two or more streets) or [33-457](#) (Tower setbacks on narrow blocks) are applicable and where the option is taken to be governed by such provisions, such tower may occupy any portion of the #zoning lot# not located less than 15 feet from the #street line# of a #narrow street#, or less than 10 feet from the #street line# of a #wide street#, provided that the aggregate area so occupied within 50 feet of a #narrow street# shall not exceed 1,875 square feet and the aggregate area so occupied within 40 feet of a #wide street# shall not exceed 1,600 square feet.

If all of the #buildings# on a #zoning lot# containing such tower do not occupy at any level more than the maximum percent of the #lot area# set forth in this Section or Section [33-454](#) for towers, the tower may occupy any portion of the #zoning lot# located 20 feet or more from the #street line# of a #narrow street# or 15 feet or more from the #street line# of a #wide street#, provided that the aggregate area so occupied within 50 feet of a #narrow street# shall not exceed 2,250 square feet and the aggregate area so occupied within 40 feet of a #wide street# shall not exceed 2,000 square feet.

Unenclosed balconies, subject to the provisions of Section [24-166](#) (Balconies), are permitted to project into or over open areas not occupied by towers.

33-452 - Community facility buildings in C1 or C2 Districts when mapped within R7-2, R8, R9 or R10 Districts

LAST AMENDED
6/29/1994

C1-1 C1-2 C1-3 C1-4 C1-5 C2-1 C2-2 C2-3 C2-4 C2-5

In the districts indicated, when mapped within an R7-2, R8, R9 or R10 District, the provisions set forth in Section [33-451](#) (In certain specified Commercial Districts) shall apply to any #community facility building#. If a #building# is used for both #community facility# and #commercial# #uses#, no portion of such #building# occupied by #commercial# #use# shall penetrate the #sky exposure plane# as set forth in Sections [33-43](#) (Maximum Height of Walls and Required Setbacks) or [33-44](#) (Alternate Front Setbacks).

33-453 - Community facility buildings in certain specified Commercial Districts

LAST AMENDED
6/29/1994

C1-6 C1-7 C1-8 C1-9 C2-6 C2-7 C2-8 C4-4 C4-5 C4-6 C5-1 C6-1 C6-2 C6-3 C8-3 C8-4

In the districts indicated, the provisions set forth in Section [33-451](#) (In certain specified Commercial Districts) shall apply to any #community facility building#. If a #building# is used for both #community facility# and #commercial# #uses#, no portion of such #building# occupied by #commercial# #use# shall penetrate the #sky exposure plane# as set forth in Section [33-43](#) (Maximum Height of Walls and Required Setbacks) or [33-44](#) (Alternate Front Setbacks).

33-454 - Towers on small lots

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

C1 C2 C4-4 C4-5 C4-6 C4-7 C5 C6 C8-3 C8-4

In the districts indicated, a tower permitted under the provisions of Sections [33-451](#), [33-452](#) or [33-453](#) may occupy the percent of the #lot area# of a #zoning lot# set forth in the following table:

LOT COVERAGE OF TOWERS ON SMALL ZONING LOTS

| Area of #Zoning Lot# (in square feet) | Maximum Percent of #Lot Coverage# |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10,500 or less | 50 |
| 10,501 to 11,500 | 49 |
| 11,501 to 12,500 | 48 |
| 12,501 to 13,500 | 47 |
| 13,501 to 14,500 | 46 |
| 14,501 to 15,500 | 45 |
| 15,501 to 16,500 | 44 |
| 16,501 to 17,500 | 43 |
| 17,501 to 18,500 | 42 |
| 18,501 to 19,999 | 41 |

33-455 - Alternate regulations for towers on lots bounded by two or more streets

C5-3 C5-5 C6-6 C6-7 C6-9

In the districts indicated, if a #zoning lot# is bounded by at least two #street lines#, a tower may occupy the percent of the #lot area# of a #zoning lot# set forth in this Section, provided that, except as otherwise set forth in Section [33-457](#) (Tower setbacks on narrow blocks), all portions of any #building# or #buildings# on such #zoning lot#, including such tower, are set back from #street lines# as required in this Section.

- (a) The maximum percent of #lot area# that may be occupied by such tower, shall be the sum of 40 percent plus one-half of one percent for every .10 by which the #floor area ratio# of such #zoning lot# is less than the #floor area ratio# permitted under the provisions of Sections [33-12](#) (Maximum Floor Area Ratio), [33-13](#) (Floor Area Bonus for a Public Plaza) or [33-14](#) (Floor Area Bonus for Arcades). The maximum #lot coverage# for any tower built under the provisions of this Section or for any #building# or #buildings# on any #zoning lot# occupied by such tower shall be 55 percent of the #lot area# of such #zoning lot#.
- (b) At all levels, including ground level, such #building# shall be set back from the #street line# as follows:
 - (1) On #narrow streets#, by a distance equal to at least the fraction of the #aggregate width of street walls# of the tower, the numerator of which fraction is one and the denominator of which fraction is the sum of 3.0 plus .0667 for every .10 by which the #floor area ratio# of such #building# is less than the #floor area ratio# permitted under the provisions of Sections [33-12](#), [33-13](#) or [33-14](#), provided that such fraction shall be no less than one-fifth, and provided further that such setback need not exceed 45 feet.
 - (2) On #wide streets#, by a distance equal to at least the fraction of the #aggregate width of street walls# of the tower, the numerator of which fraction is one and the denominator of which fraction is the sum of 4.0 plus .10 for every .10 by which the #floor area ratio# of such #building# is less than the #floor area ratio# permitted under the provisions of Sections [33-12](#), [33-13](#) or [33-14](#), provided that such fraction shall be no less than one-seventh, and provided further that such setback need not exceed 35 feet.
- (c) If a #zoning lot# occupies an entire #block#, the maximum setback, set forth in paragraph (b) of this Section, of 45 feet on each #narrow street# bounding the #zoning lot# may be reduced by one foot for every six feet of setback provided on a #wide street# bounding the #zoning lot# in addition to the setbacks otherwise required for #wide streets# as set forth in such paragraph, provided that no setback on a #narrow street# resulting from such reduction shall be less than 35 feet or one-tenth the #aggregate width of street walls# of the tower, whichever shall require the greater setback.
- (d) The additional setbacks on #wide streets# set forth in paragraph (c) of this Section may be provided entirely on one #wide street# or divided in any proportion among any two #wide streets# bounding the #zoning lot#.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision set forth in this Section, no #building# or portion of a #building# built under the provisions of this Section shall be set back less than 25 feet from the #street line# on #narrow streets# or less than 15 feet from the #street line# on #wide streets#.

33-456 - Alternate setback regulations on lots bounded by two or more streets

C5-3 C5-5 C6-6 C6-7 C6-9

In the districts indicated, except as otherwise set forth in Section [33-457](#) (Tower setbacks on narrow blocks), if a #zoning lot# is

bounded by at least two #street lines#, a tower occupying not more than the percent of #lot area# set forth in Section [33-451](#) (In certain specified Commercial Districts) or [33-454](#) (Towers on small lots), may be set back from a #street line# as follows:

- (a) On #narrow streets#, by a distance equal to at least the fraction of the #aggregate width of street walls# of the tower, the numerator of which fraction is one and the denominator of which fraction is the sum of 3.0 plus .0333 for each .10 by which the #floor area ratio# of the #zoning lot# is less than the #floor area ratio# permitted under the provisions of Section [33-12](#), [33-13](#) or [33-14](#), provided that such fraction shall be no less than one-fifth, and provided further that such setback need not exceed 45 feet.
- (b) On #wide streets#, by a distance equal to at least the fraction of the #aggregate width of street walls# of the tower, the numerator of which fraction is one and the denominator of which fraction is the sum of 4.0 plus .05 for each .10 by which the #floor area ratio# of the #zoning lot# is less than the #floor area ratio# permitted under the provisions of Sections [33-12](#) (Maximum Floor Area Ratio), [33-13](#) (Floor Area Bonus for a Public Plaza) or [33-14](#) (Floor Area Bonus for Arcades), provided that such fraction shall be no less than one-seventh, and provided further that such setback need not exceed 35 feet.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions set forth in this Section, no tower built under the provisions of this Section shall be set back less than 25 feet from the #street line# on #narrow streets# or less than 15 feet from the #street line# on #wide streets#.

33-457 - Tower setbacks on narrow blocks

LAST AMENDED
4/22/1965

C5-3 C5-5 C6-6 C6-7 C6-9

In the districts indicated, if a #zoning lot# is bounded by at least three #street lines#, and any two of the #street lines# are opposite to each other and parallel or within 45 degrees of being parallel to each other, and their average distance apart is 150 feet or less, the minimum distance a tower is required to be set back from such opposite #street lines# under the provisions of Section [33-455](#) (Alternate regulations for towers on lots bounded by two or more streets) or Section [33-456](#) (Alternate setback regulations on lots bounded by two or more streets), is reduced in accordance with the following table:

TOWER SETBACKS ON NARROW BLOCKS

| | Reduction of Required Tower Setback | Minimum Setback for Tower Built under Provisions of this Section |
|--------------------|--|--|
| On #narrow street# | 30 percent or 10 feet, whichever is less | 15 feet |
| On #wide street# | 40 percent or 10 feet, whichever is less | 10 feet |