



Guide to Rent Increases for Rent Stabilized Apartments

5 PAGES

AT A GLANCE

This Fact Sheet can be used along with a rent registration history of an apartment to assist in determining if the apartment's registration status and rent are lawful.

DEFINITIONS

Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) of 2019:

The act, which went into effect on June 14, 2019, made changes to how rents can be raised and changed formulas for vacancy leases, Major Capital Improvements (MCI) and Individual Apartment Improvements (IAI).

Individual Apartment

Improvements (IAIs): When an owner installs a new appliance or makes an improvement to an apartment, the owner may be entitled to an IAI rent increase.

Major Capital Improvements

(MCIs): Building-wide improvements such as boilers, windows and roofs.

Vacancy lease: When a person rents a rent stabilized apartment for the first time, the owner and the tenant sign a vacancy lease.

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) of 2019 made changes to how rents can be raised and changed formulas for vacancy leases, MCIs, and IAIs. MCI and IAI rent increases are now temporary, and the amount that can be collected for IAIs is limited.

<p>Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy leases: HSTPA eliminated the statutory vacancy rate and does not permit Rent Guidelines Boards to establish a separate vacancy rate. • Renewal leases: When a tenant signs a renewal lease, they can choose between a one or two-year option and the allowable guideline adjustment is set by the local rent guidelines board. • Improvements: Lawful rent increases for IAIs and/or MCIs may be factored into rent increases.
<p>Limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under HSTPA, there are limitations on future MCI increases, such as: an annual 2% rent increase cap, only reasonable costs are recoverable, and MCI rent increases are prohibited in buildings that contain 35% or fewer rent-regulated apartments. • In buildings with 35 units or less, owners can increase the rent for an IAI up to 1/168th of the cost of the improvement. • In buildings with more than 35 units, owners can increase the rent for an IAI up to 1/180th of the cost of the improvement. • Owners may collect no more than three IAI increases within a 15-year period, and the total cost of the improvements eligible for a rent increase calculation cannot exceed \$15,000. • The written consent provided by the tenant in occupancy for an IAI rent increase must be on a DHCR form.

FACT SHEET #26: IN DETAIL

Introduction

This fact sheet will be updated annually to reflect the new lease guideline rates. It can be reviewed along with a rent registration history of an apartment to assist in determining if the apartment's registration status and the rent being charged are lawful. The apartment rent registration history and a rent overcharge complaint form can be requested online at www.hcr.ny.gov or at a Borough Rent Office.

The Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) of 2019, which went into effect on June 14, 2019, made changes to how rents can be raised and changed formulas for vacancy leases, Major Capital Improvements (MCI) and Individual Apartment Improvements (IAI). MCI and IAI rent increases are now temporary and the amount that can be collected for IAIs is limited. HSTPA eliminates High Rent Vacancy and High Rent High Income Deregulation and makes preferential rents the basis for collection for the duration of the tenancy. It also extends the rent overcharge review time period from four to up to six years for complaints filed on or after the passage of HSTPA.

Effective December 15, 2022, Private Housing Finance Law (PHFL) Section 610 allows owners of affordable housing properties to collect actual rents that are higher than legal rents, if the following two conditions are met: a state or municipal agency or other statutorily designated party must issue specific approval in a regulatory agreement, either new or amended, and a government program provides rental assistance to the apartment. See DHCR Notice RA-LR3 for more details. Often rental assistance may be provided to owners without an overarching state or municipal regulatory agreement for the development. In addition, a regulatory agreement may not specifically authorize these higher rents with respect to all or certain types of rental assistance. Neither of these circumstances establish that an actual rent higher than the legal stabilized rent can be charged. Owners should be aware that for example, FHEPS or individual section 8 housing

choice vouchers may not always qualify for an actual higher rent.

Vacancy and Renewal Leases

HSTPA eliminated the statutory vacancy rate and does not permit Rent Guidelines Boards to establish a separate vacancy rate. Changes to the rent regulations effective November 8, 2023 further clarify that the Rent Guidelines Board one or two year lease guidelines adjustments shall be applicable to both vacancy and renewal leases. No more than one guideline adjustment can be added to the rent in a calendar year for a vacancy lease. Renewal lease guideline adjustments are subject to the limitation of one guideline adjustment in the same guideline year. A guideline year commences on October 1 and ends the following September 30. Lawful temporary increases for Major Capital Improvements (MCI) and Individual Apartment Improvements (IAI) may also be added to the rent.

A DHCR Rent Stabilization Lease Rider/Addenda is to be attached to the lease and it should contain information on how the rent was calculated and on any related Individual Apartment Improvements.

When a tenant signs a renewal lease, they can choose between a one or two-year option and the allowable guideline adjustment is set by the local rent guidelines board. (See the Recent Lease Guideline Rates chart.)

Effective June 14, 2019 owners who are collecting a preferential rent, upon renewal of the lease, can increase the legal and preferential rents by the lawful guideline adjustments but only collect a guideline adjustment based on the preferential rent. The higher legal regulated rent and related guideline adjustments can only be collected when the apartment is vacated and rented to a subsequent tenant. See Fact Sheet #40 for more details.

Individual Apartment Improvements (IAI)

When an owner installs a new appliance or makes

an improvement to an apartment the owner may be entitled to an IAI rent increase. Tenant written consent for the improvement and rent increase is only required if the apartment is occupied by a tenant at the time of the improvement. Written consent is not required for a vacant apartment.

In buildings with 35 units or less, the amount the rent can be increased for an IAI is limited to 1/168th of the cost of the improvement. In buildings with more than 35 units, the amount the rent can be increased for an IAI is limited to 1/180th of the cost of the improvement.

No more than three IAI increases can be collected in a 15-year period and the total cost of the improvements eligible for a rent increase calculation cannot exceed \$15,000. Work must be done by a licensed contractor and there is a prohibition on common ownership between the contractor and the owner. The apartment must be free and clear of any outstanding hazardous and immediately hazardous violations. The written consent provided by the tenant in occupancy must be on a DHCR form. For informational purposes only, the translated versions of this form are available for review on DHCR's website. Owners are required to maintain supporting documentation and photographs for all IAI installations, which commencing June 14, 2020 will be submitted to and stored by DHCR in an electronic format. The IAI rent increase for improvements collected after June 14, 2019 is temporary and must be removed from the rent in 30 years, and the legal rent must be adjusted at that time for guideline adjustments that were previously compounded on a rent that included the IAI.

The DHCR Lease Rider included with a vacancy lease must notify the tenant of the right to request from the owner by certified mail Individual Apartment Improvements (IAIs) supporting documentation at the time the lease is offered or within 60 days of the execution of the lease. The owner shall provide such documentation within 30 days of that request in person or by certified mail. A tenant who is not provided with that documentation upon demand may file form RA-90 "Tenant's Complaint of Owner's Failure to Renew

Lease and/or Failure to Furnish a copy of a Signed Lease" to receive a DHCR Order that directs the furnishing of the IAI supporting documentation.

Major Capital Improvements (MCI)

An owner is permitted rent increases to recover the costs of building-wide major capital improvements, such as the replacement of a boiler or new plumbing. The owner must file an application with DHCR and DHCR may issue an order denying the increase or granting an increase in part or in whole. After review of an MCI application DHCR will issue an order and serve it on the owner and all tenants in the building.

Under HSTPA, there are limitations on future MCI increases, such as: only reasonable costs are recoverable, and MCI rent increases are prohibited in buildings that contain 35% or fewer rent regulated apartments. The rent increase approved by the DHCR order is collectible prospectively, on the first day of the first month 60 days after issuance. There are no retroactive rent increases. The collection of the increase is limited to a 2% cap/yearly phase-in. The 2% cap also applies to MCI rent increases not yet collected that were approved on or after June 14, 2012. The first renewal lease effective after June 14, 2019 must reflect no more than a 2% increase. Upon vacancy, the remaining balance of the increase can be added to the legal rent. In buildings with 35 or fewer units, the cost of the MCI is amortized over a 12-year period. In buildings with more than 35 units, the cost of the MCI is amortized over 12 ½ years. The building must be free and clear of any outstanding hazardous and immediately hazardous violations. The MCI rent increase is temporary and it must be removed from the rent in 30 years and the legal rent must be adjusted at that time for guideline adjustments that were previously compounded on a rent that included the MCI rent increase. Vacancy lease tenants are to be notified in their lease about pending MCI applications.

RECENT LEASE GUIDELINE RATES

- Prior to the effective date of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) of 2019, June 14, 2019, these guidelines applied only to lease renewals.
- Effective November 8, 2023, the rent regulation amendments clarify that guideline adjustments apply to vacancy and renewal leases. Prior to this date, the footnote “G” below was used as a notation. In the light of this amendment, the continued use of this footnote is no longer necessary.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENEWAL LEASE	NYC		Nassau		Rockland		Westchester		Westchester (tenant pays either heat or hot water)		City of Kingston	
	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year
10/1/17-9/30/18	1.25%	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%	0.80%	1.20%	—	—
10/1/18-9/30/19	1.50%	2.50%	1.00%	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.00%	3.00%	1.60%	2.40%	—	—
							0.00% ¹	1.00% ¹	0.00% ¹	0.80% ¹	—	—
10/1/19-9/30/20	1.50%	2.50%	1.50% ^G	2.50% ^G	0.00%	0.00%	1.75%	2.75%	1.75%	2.75%	—	—
10/1/20-9/30/21	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^{G,2} 1.00% ^{G,2}	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	—	—
10/1/21-9/30/22	1.50% ^{G,3}	2.50% ^G	1.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	0.50% ^G	0.75% ^G	0.50% ^G	1.00% ^G	0.50% ^G	1.00% ^G	—	—
10/1/22-9/30/23	3.25% ^G	5.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	3.50% ^G	0.50% ^G	0.75% ^G	2.00% ^G	3.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	3.00% ^G	—	—
							1.00% ^{G,4}	2.00% ^{G,4}				
10/1/23-9/30/24	3.00% ^G	2.75% ^{G,5}	1.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.50% ^G	1.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	1.00% ^G	2.00% ^G	0.00% ^G	0.00% ^G
		3.20% ^{G,5}	0.00% ^{G,6}	0.00% ^{G,6}								

^G The guideline adjustment is authorized for all leases.

¹ These guideline adjustments apply only to the Village of Ossining within Westchester County.

² 0% for the first year of the lease and 1% for the second year of the lease.

³ 0% for the first six (6) months of the lease and 1.5% for the final six (6) months of the lease.

⁴ These guideline adjustments apply only to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, which expanded its ETPA coverage on March 27, 2023 to buildings built before 1974 with six or more units. They apply to leases commencing between March 27, 2023 and September 30, 2023.

⁵ For a two-year lease commencing on or after October 1, 2023 and on or before September 30, 2024, for the first year of the lease, 2.75%; and for the second year of the lease, 3.20% of the amount lawfully charged in the first year, excluding any increases other than the first-year guideline adjustment.

⁶ These guideline adjustments apply only to the Village of Hempstead within Nassau County.

HISTORICAL VACANCY LEASE RATES

- Pursuant to the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, effective June 14, 2019, there is no longer a separate statutory vacancy rate or a separate Rent Guidelines Board vacancy rate.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF VACANCY LEASE	NYC		Nassau		Rockland		Westchester		Westchester (tenant pays either heat or hot water)	
	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year	1 year	2 year
10/1/12 - 9/30/13 ¹	18.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%
10/1/13 - 9/30/14 ¹	16.25%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	18.50%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%
10/1/14 - 9/30/15 ¹	18.25%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	17.50%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%
10/1/15 - 9/30/16 ¹	18.00%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	19.75%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%
10/1/16 - 9/30/17 ¹	18.00%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%
10/1/17 - 9/30/18 ¹	19.25%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%	19.50%	20.00%
10/1/18 - 6/13/19 ¹	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%	20.00%

¹Prior to June 14, 2019, the Rent Act of 2015 provides that if a preferential rent was charged and paid by the prior tenant, then the owner is entitled to increase the legal regulated rent by no more than one of the following vacancy increases:

Last Vacancy Lease Commenced:	Vacancy Increase:
Less than 2 years ago	5%
Less than 3 years ago	10%
Less than 4 years ago	15%
4 or more years ago	20% (for a two-year lease)
OR	
the % listed for the effective date and county in the table above (for a one-year lease)	



➤ **Rent Connect:**
rent.hcr.ny.gov

✉ **Ask a question:**
portal.hcr.ny.gov/app/ask

🗣️ **For translation help:**
hcr.ny.gov/language-accessibility

➤ **Our website:**
hcr.ny.gov/rent

To visit a Borough Rent Office, by appointment only, please contact:

QUEENS
92-31 Union Hall Street
6th Floor
Jamaica, NY 11433
718-482-4041

UPPER MANHATTAN
163 W. 125th Street
5th Floor
New York, NY 10027
212-961-8930

BRONX
1 Fordham Plaza
4th Floor
Bronx, NY 10458
718-430-0880

BROOKLYN
55 Hanson Place
6th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-722-4778

LOWER MANHATTAN
25 Beaver Street
New York, NY 10004
212-480-6238

WESTCHESTER
75 South Broadway
3rd Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
914-948-4434