



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION  
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#95  
1608  
Article 1  
09-20-11  
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## **SNOW LOADS**

Design snow loads shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 7 of ASCE 7-05, but the design roof load shall not be less than that determined by Section 1607

Snow load is an environmental load, not a live load (Section 1602) Therefore, the reduction of live loads for tributary area in Section 1607 11 2 is not permitted

The following table shows the ground snow load criteria to be used for buildings and structures.

<b>Elevation</b>	<b>Ground Snow Load (<math>P_g</math>)</b>	<b>Snow Load Design Reductions</b>
Under 2,000 feet	No Snow Load	N/A
Between 2,000 and 3,500 feet	20 lbs./sq. ft	Snow loads may be excluded in the calculation of the seismic forces.
Between 3,500 and 5,000 feet	40 lbs./sq. ft	A minimum of 20 percent of the unreduced design snow load shall be included in the seismic dead load.
Over 5,000 feet	80 lbs./sq. ft.	A minimum of 20 percent of the unreduced design snow load shall be included in the seismic dead load.

Section 1605.2 requires that flat roof snow load be included in "Strength Design" or "Load and Resistance Factor Design." When "Working Stress Design" or "Alternate basic load combinations" are used, flat roof snow load of 30 psf or less need not be combined with seismic loads as per Exception 2 of Sections 1605.3.1 and 1605 3.2 This exception does not apply to "Load and Resistance Factor Design" or "Strength Design" per Section 1605.2.

Supersedes BCM 1608 Article 1 dated 06-26-06

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