



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION  
Based on the 2017 LACBC**

**No. 010  
1511.2  
Article 1  
07-12-17  
Page 1 of 2**

## **ROOF DEAD LOAD DESIGN CONSIDERING FUTURE REROOFING**

Section 1511.2 requires that all structural roof components shall be capable of supporting the roof-covering system (including weight of material used for recovering), the material, and equipment loads that will be encountered during installation of the system.

In accordance with Section 1511.3, reroofing shall not exceed two layers (existing plus new) on roofs with asphalt or wood shingles.

The design weight of an asphalt or wood shingle roof covering (where reroofing is allowed) should be 4 pounds for square foot (psf) instead of the actual weight of approximately 2 psf. However, due to the possibility of reroofing an asphalt or wood shake roof with lightweight clay tile, which has a typical minimum design load of 6 psf, **the design professionals are advised to use the minimum 6 psf roofing material dead load in their calculations.** Note that for roofing materials like clay or concrete tiles, where reroofing is not permitted, the design engineer shall use the actual weight of one layer of roofing material.

Since approved residential plans in our field offices are kept for only 90 days from the date of completion of construction (in accordance with Section 106.5.2), design information on an existing roof will not be available when an applicant applies for a reroofing permit years in the future. Instruct applicants to account for the potential weight of reroofing materials in their calculations as part of the original design.

When a roof is designed using less than 6 psf roof material dead load, it will be our policy to place a note on the job jacket or add a hold on the address in permitting software indicating that the design weight of the roof material used was less than 6 psf. If the house is reroofed in the future with lightweight tile or some other heavier material, engineering analysis will be required to verify the adequacy of the roof framing system. The design professional should be made aware of this policy during the plan check process.

We will not accept a note on the plans or a letter from the designer indicating that the existing roofing layer will be removed prior to reroofing since new owners may not receive that information and these records are often discarded 90 days after the project is finished.

Supersedes BCM 1510.2 Article 1 dated 09-15-14

WRITTEN BY: JONATHAN LAM  
Senior Civil Engineer

REVIEWED BY: POLICY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY:



FADY KHALIL  
Principal Engineer