

AS 1170.3—1990

Australian Standard[®]

SAA Loading Code

Part 3: Snow loads

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee BD/6, Loading on Structures. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 October 1989 and published on 26 January 1990.

The following interests are represented on Committee BD/6:

Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia
Association of Consulting Structural Engineers, Australia
Australian Clay Brick Association
Australian Construction Services (Department of Administrative Services)
Australian Council of Local Government Associations
Australian Federation of Construction Contractors
Australian Institute of Steel Construction
Australian Mining Industry Council
Bureau of Meteorology
Bureau of Steel Manufacturers of Australia
CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction and Engineering
Department of Local Government, Qld
Electricity Supply Association of Australia
Engineering and Water Supply Department, S.A.
James Cook University of North Queensland
Master Builders' Construction and Housing Association, Australia
Monash University
National Association of Australian State Road Authorities
Public Works Department, N.S.W.
University of Melbourne
University of Newcastle

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

National Parks and Wildlife Service, N.S.W.
Public Works Department, Vic.
Shire of Bright, Vic.
Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, N.S.W.

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 88133.

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Australian Standard[®]

**Minimum design loads on
structures**

Part 3: Snow loads

(known as the SAA Loading Code)

First published as AS 1170.3—1990.

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7262 6006 1

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee for Loading on Structures.

In preparing this Standard the Committee referred to the following:

- (a) ANSI A58.1–1982, *American National Standards Institute – Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and other Structures*.
- (b) *National Building Code of Canada*, 1980.

The Supplement to the National Building Code of Canada – 1980.

- (c) ISO 4355–1981 International Standard, *Bases for Design of Structures, Determination of Snow Loads on Roofs*.

Data on ground snow depths and densities were obtained mainly from the Bureau of Meteorology, Authorities, such as The Snowy Mountains Authority, and a private meteorologist.

The Committee acknowledges the assistance obtained from these sources.

The relationship between roof snow load and ground snow load was established on the basis of field observations by members of the Committee over many years, particularly years of very heavy snowfalls.

This Standard is intended to be used in establishing snow loads on roofs, balconies, walkways and other building surfaces which retain snow. It also provides guidance (see Appendix B) on the avoidance of common problems which occur mainly in alpine regions due to movement, sliding or drifting of snow.

Snow loads are difficult to assess accurately not only because the amount of snow which falls is sensitive to general and local topography but also because the amount of snow which is retained on the roof is sensitive to roof slope, roof geometry and orientation.

Designers must be alert to the extra snow loads which certain roof shapes attract, because of drifting effects. Blockages and effects of sliding snow or snow creep on the roof and in the environs of the building are further considerations for the designer.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in Notes to tables and figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

A Commentary (see AS 1170.3 Supplement 1) provides background material to the requirements of this Standard and includes some worked examples to illustrate its application.

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