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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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**Effective Date:** January 1, 2003

**Source Document:** 19NYCRR 1220 - Residential Code of New York State  
19NYCRR 1221 - Building Code of new York State

**Topic:** Ground Snow Load & Engineered Design

This document is to clarify the roof snow load in the *Residential Code of New York State* (RCNYS). The question is whether ASCE 7 Figure 7-1 can be used for the ground snow load. YES.

RCNYS section R301.1.2, *Engineered design*, provides that **“Engineered design in accordance with the *Building Code of New York State* (BCNYS) is permitted for all buildings and structures, and parts thereof, included in the scope of this code.”**

BCNYS section 1608.2, *Ground snow loads*, requires that the ground snow loads to be used in determining the design snow loads for roofs are given in Figure 1608.2. Additionally, it provides that site-specific case studies may be made in lieu of snow loads in Figure 1608.2 and ground snow load determination for site-specific case studies shall be based on an extreme value statistical analysis of data available in the vicinity of the site using a value with a 2-percent annual probability of being exceeded (50-year mean recurrence interval).

The use of Figure 7-1 of ASCE 7 can be considered as a series of case studies and therefore, the ground snow loads in the figure can be used in lieu of BCNYS figure 1608.1. It should be noted that footnote c of Table 1608.3.3, *Thermal Factor,  $C_t$* , states that the thermal factor,  $C_t$  shall be 1.1 if ground snow loads are not taken from Figure 1608.2.

When the ASCE 7 snow load is used, the roof structure shall be an engineered design and the remaining structural elements may be by the prescriptive tables in the RCNYS.

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