



**Bureau of  
Development  
Services** FROM CONCEPT  
TO CONSTRUCTION

## CODE GUIDE



**TOPIC: Fire Protection Systems - IBC/9/#1**

**CODE: Structural Specialty Code: 2010 Edition**

**REVISED: March 18, 2013**           *[Paul L. Scarlett]*          , Director

**REFERENCE: Structural Specialty Code: Chapter 9**

**SUBJECT: Automatic Smoke and Heat Vents: Design Loads**

**QUESTION:** What are the design load requirements for automatic smoke and heat vents installed in roofs? Do the same standards apply to melt-out vents?

**RESPONSE:** Automatic smoke and heat vents shall be capable of opening freely and fully against a live (snow) load of 10 pounds per square foot. In addition, these vents shall be capable of supporting a live (snow) load of 25 pounds per square foot. This load may be higher under drifting conditions. Skylights designed to function as smoke and heat vents which melt out at a specific temperature to provide smoke and heat dissipation shall also comply with these design load standards.

---

Updates August 30, 2007 edition  
Updates March 1, 1999 edition  
Updates July 1, 1996 edition  
Replaces Code Guide UBC/32/#1 which replaced  
Policy & Procedure #'s D-69 and D-22.