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


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