

International Building Code 2015 Edition - Structural

Public Comment:

Section 202 Definitions, Section 1607 Live Loads, Table 1607.1 Minimum Live Loads

Section 202 - Definitions

MARQUEE. A canopy that is supported entirely by a building, is constructed of noncombustible materials, and has a top surface which is sloped less than 25 degrees from the horizontal and is located less than 10 feet (3.05 m) from operable openings above or adjacent to the level of the marquee.

Section 1607

TABLE 1607.1

MINIMUM UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED LIVE LOADS, L_o , AND MINIMUM CONCENTRATED LIVE LOADS

OCCUPANCY OR USE	UNIFORM(psf)	CONCENTRATED(lbs.)
21. Marquees, except one- and two-family dwellings	75	—
25. Residential		
One- and two-family dwellings		
Uninhabitable attics without storage	10	
Uninhabitable attics with storage ^{i, j, k}	20	
Habitable attics and sleeping areas ^k	30	
Canopies, including marquees	20	
All other areas	40	
Hotels and multifamily dwellings		
Private rooms and corridors serving them	40	
Public rooms ^m and corridors serving them	100	
26. Roofs		
All roof surfaces subject to maintenance workers		300
Awnings and canopies:		
Fabric construction supported by a skeleton	5	
Structure	Nonreducible	
All other construction, except one- and two-family dwellings and occupiable canopies	20	
Ordinary flat, pitched, and curved roofs (that are not occupiable)	20	
Where primary roof members are exposed to a work floor, at single panel point of lower chord of roof trusses or any point along primary structural members supporting roofs:		
Over manufacturing, storage warehouses, and repair garages		2000
All other primary roof members		300
Occupiable roofs:		
Roof gardens	100	
Assembly areas	100	
Canopies	75ⁿ	
All other similar areas	Note I	Note I

n. An occupiable canopy is a canopy that has a top surface which is sloped less than 25 degrees from the horizontal and is located less than 10 feet (3.05 m) from operable openings above or adjacent to the level of the canopy.

Reason: This modification revises the 2015 IBC language regarding canopies and marquees. Language approved initially for the 2012 IBC substantially changed the design requirements for many small porch and patio roofs or canopies on residential buildings, particularly those located nowhere near public streets. Prior to the 2012 IBC, these roofs were designed for standard roof live loads or local ground snow loads (typically in the range of 20 or 30 pounds per square foot). These elements are now required to be designed for 75psf if they happen to be less than 10 feet vertically from a window above or horizontally from a window at the level of the canopy. This represents a substantial increase in design requirements for apartment or condominium complexes with these elements, as well as a substantial issue for renovations. An NAHB proposal amended the 2015 IBC to restore the traditional 20psf roof live load requirement for porches, patios, or canopies on one- and two-family dwellings, but the issue remains for multifamily buildings.

This modification makes two key changes. First, it revises the definition of a marquee to reflect the specific construction requirements provided in Section 3106.5. This fixes a conflict that was 3106.5 introduced when the longstanding definition of a “marquee” (an element generally associated with theaters) was amended to include elements that had previously been considered “canopies.” Second, it adds a line item under “occupiable roofs” for canopies and establishes a 75psf live load requirement for a canopy that could be considered an “occupiable roof.” As described in the new Footnote n, this would be a canopy with a flat or low-slope top surface which can be accessed from an operable window or other opening that is less than 10 feet above the top surface of the canopy or within 10 feet of either end of the canopy. These changes preserve the intent of what the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations’ (NCSEA) Code Advisory Committee was trying to achieve – requiring a higher live load for a canopy that could be used as a means of egress or otherwise accessed by building occupants – without applying the term “marquee” to an element that most code users, not to mention the average person on the street, would call a “canopy”. These changes would also remove the 75psf requirement from flat or low-slope canopies on multifamily buildings as long as they are not accessible as noted above.

Committee Comments:

DN – Walt, my vote would be no to the proposed amendments on canopies and marquee's.

MG - I also oppose this proposed amendment. It really needs to be corrected at the ICC.

WGMS – I do not see that this is a major issue and feel that it needs to be dealt with through ASCE-7 and the ICC. If we would make these changes it would be very confusing and it’s my opinion that conflict would arise. I would recommend rejecting the request and adopting the sections as published in the 2015 IBC.

Recommendation to RAC: We recommend to the RAC that the request for modification be rejected and the section adopted as written in the 2015 IBC.