

SC/10/026A
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SNOW LOADING OF BUILDINGS

Background

The recent winter weather brought some heavy snow in many parts of the UK, but particularly in Scotland. A number of buildings, mainly agricultural, collapsed under the weight of snow (up to 1.2m in some cases).

Action is in hand in Scotland to collate data via the Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers and the Scottish Agricultural College thus allowing an analysis of current design provisions. These will be passed through to SCOSS in due course.

This Alert

In order to obtain UK-wide information SCOSS is keen for reports of any failure due to snow to be made available.

This can be done through CROSS at www.cross-structural-safety.org and should indicate whether it was exempt from Building Regulations, and include a technical description of the circumstances together with information on the design, nature of construction and whether the building was built in accordance with the design provisions e.g. (in the case of agricultural buildings) the inclusion of stiffeners and stays. Photographs would be helpful.

This data will be made available for consideration by those involved in relevant codes and regulations.

It would also be prudent, in the short term while this data is being collected and pending any conclusions, for designers to discuss building class and loadings with their clients to reduce the potential for further failures. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to design to a higher class within BS 5502-22 (Buildings and structures for agriculture. Code of practice for design, construction and loading).