Preface

This is the English version of Recommendations for Loads on Buildings, which was revised in June, 1993. Included are the entire text of the recommendations and a part of its commentary. The recommendations are based on the following principles:

1. The design loads treated here are to be used in static structural analysis. Therefore, wind loads and seismic loads are evaluated as equivalent static loads.
2. To cover the various design methods, we tried to provide objective design loads appropriate to corresponding theoretical backgrounds. To meet this requirement, a probabilistic/statistical method was applied in each case. The concept of 'basic load value' is introduced, which indicates the characteristic value for each load based on statistical estimation.
3. Two design procedures are treated here: a deterministic design procedure represented by Allowable Stress Design, and a probabilistic design procedure represented by Limit State Design. We explain the rationale in specifying design loads for these two procedures, as a supplier of load information.
4. In formulating or quantifying individual loads, we have paid attention to indicate 'Average' or average-like value with a specified return period of each load or of its parameters, while providing information of 'Variation'.

Please note that the design load considered to be appropriate according to this recommendation is not always legitimate under the current Japanese National Building Code.

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Architectural Institute of Japan

Recommendations for Loads on Buildings

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