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The 2008 International Classification of Seasonal Snow on the Ground

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The "International Classification for Seasonal Snow on the Ground" published in 1990 is now well accepted by most snow scientists and practitioners around the world. Nevertheless, snow scientists felt some points needed to be revised. Most problems were spotted within the classification of wet snow and crusts, but also in conjunction with polar snow, blowing snow, snow in forests or on how well a non-specialist end-user may be able to use the classification. In 2003, a working group on Snow Classification was established by the former International Commission on Snow and Ice (ICSI) that now has become the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) within the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). The working group recently produced a revised classification that will have been evaluated by a representative committee of worldwide snow researchers and agencies by the time of this assembly. We will present the main revisions as well as the new material included in the 2008 classification.