

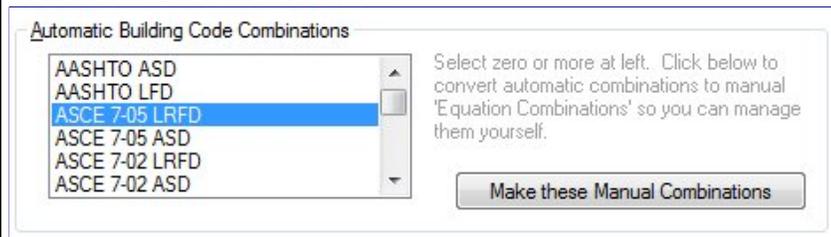


## Fun with Code Combinations

*A new utility ships with VisualAnalysis 6.0*

Managing load combinations has become a real challenge thanks to the variety and complexities of modern building codes, but [VisualAnalysis](#) goes a long way toward making this a non-issue with its powerful automated building code combination feature. The system will automatically generate and update load combinations for you as you add and remove loads from the system. It is not perfect though, and there may be times when you wish you could customize the system a little. With the new **IES Code Combination Editor**, which is included with VisualAnalysis 6.00.0108 (Nov 14, 2008), it is trivial to customize the system! Best of all, it is **free** (because we care about your success). This tool will be found only if you **update** to the latest release (Build 108).

### Automated Load Combinations



VisualAnalysis has long supported automatic load combinations and version 6.0 extends the feature significantly over previous versions with easy application and viewing of the combinations generated, automatic design-type setup, and easy ways to "take charge" after the combinations are generated. Included in the system are AASHTO, IBC, ACI, UBC and other load combination definitions, giving you lots of power. One of the biggest reasons to use the system is to handle all the directional combinations for wind and seismic loads in IBC 2006.

### Why Customize the System?

There are a number of reasons why you might want to customize this system, including:

- Remove codes you never use to make using the system easier and less error-prone.
- Modify the load combination names to better meet your needs.
- Add IBC "Alternative" load combinations, if you need them.
- Add other specifications (e.g. ASCE Standard 10-97 for Steel Lattice Towers)
- Remove equations that you know never "govern" the projects you work on.
- Make changes or fixes in existing equations without IES assistance.

You have always had the power to accomplish these things, but doing so requires locating and manually editing the CodeCombo.txt file installed in your computer. Making a mistake in formatting this document could make it unreadable by the system so manual changes require some extra caution.

### Using Code Combination Editor

The new editor is simple to use and easy to find in Start | All Programs | IES. When you launch the Code Combination Editor you will see:

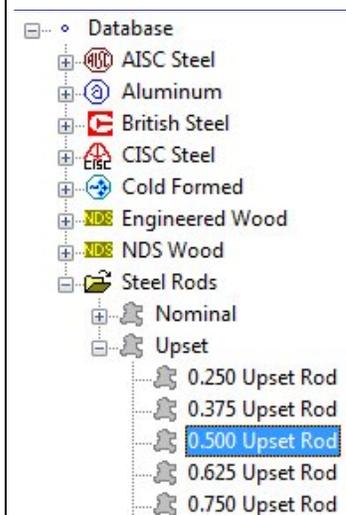
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## Steel Rod Design in VA

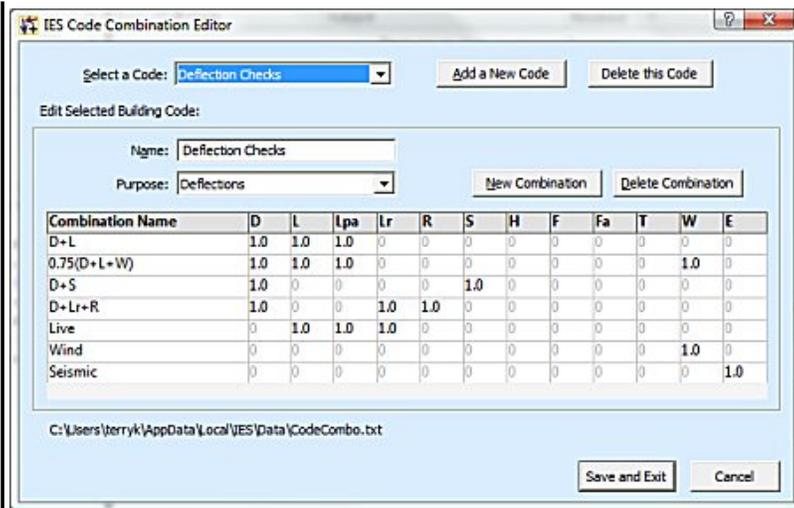
*Missing Rods added with ShapeBuilder*

Threaded steel rods are missing from the AISC shape database included with VisualAnalysis, yet these are a useful bracing element in many structures. Sure you can model them as members with a parametric circle shape, but then you have to manually set it up in each project where you need one. Also the steel design system doesn't allow you to 'design' parametric shapes by searching the database for a shape that works. If these threaded rods were in the database, life would be simpler...



### Tutorial Package

Jeff Johnson, PE is working with IES on a number of projects and he has put together a nice [tutorial package](#) that not only provides you with the steel rod database that you can use immediately, but also shows step-by-step how you can create your own custom databases utilizing ShapeBuilder 4.5.



Using this tool should be self-explanatory, especially if you understand VisualAnalysis load cases and combinations (as described in the VisualAnalysis Help file), but here are some general tips:

- Delete the code items you do not need, to simplify the list!
- Rename the combinations to have names you like, but remember that short names work much better in VisualAnalysis reports! The names are limited to 25 characters.
- If you set up a new code-group for deflections be sure to set the Purpose = Deflections option.
- After you modify your file, you should back it up somewhere. The file location is shown at the bottom of the IES Code Combination Editor.
- Copy your custom file to everyone else's machine in your office so that you are all working with the same set of load combination options.
- If you make a mistake, you can delete the "CodeCombo.txt" file and the next time you start VisualAnalysis, the default file will be restored for you automatically.

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## Support Cures

*Pain is a good thing, it tells you there is something wrong*

Contrary to popular American belief, pain is a good thing. As a rule, we Americans love to mask our pains and sufferings, but maybe your body is telling you something that you should know? Maybe it is time to change the way your are going about life? Just a thought.

When it comes to writing software, here is the average developer's prescription for your pain: *"That's not a bug, it's a feature!"*

At IES, we see things a bit differently, though. A "Pain in the Customer" is something that needs to be addressed. We take measures to remove the problems without killing the software (or the customer). We do it through updates. In other words,

*"An Update a Day, Takes the Bugs Away!"*

If you haven't checked up on our [prescriptions](#) lately, you might do so today. You know what they say about an ounce of prevention...

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If you just want to look through the tutorial, [steel-rods.pdf](#) is available too.

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## Testers Wanted: Dead or Alive!

*VisualFoundation Beta Test #1*

It is

time for a posse to go after the most notorious buggers in VisualFoundation **1!** IES is looking for a few demanding and critical engineers, the kind who can shoot holes through a bug's eye, or at least know how to size a mat footing. Sheriff Terry has vowed to hunt down all parties of the notorious **IES Defect Gang**.



We need rough & ready engineers who know how to shoot down rouge software and chase it to the border.

**Turn yourself in for a Reward:** Free Software and a \$100 cash bounty for the "Most Ornerly" testers we corral.

[Contact the sheriff](#) today to get dusty on this lonesome trail. I reckon we'll have a grand old time, if'n we don't get killed.

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