Compression Test (CT)

1. Excavate a vertical wall of snow at least 50 cm wide and 120 cm high. Examine the wall surface.

Analyse the snow profile →

2. Cut a vertical slit at right angles to the front face and at least 30 cm up-slope. Excavate the left side of this slit so you can see the front and left sides of the column to be.
3. Cut a second slit 30 cm to the right of the first slit.
4. From the left-hand side, cut vertically down the back of the column, thus isolating the 30 x 30 cm column.
5. Lay the shovel face-down on the column and perform ten taps on the shovel from your wrist with your fingertips.
6. Look for shear failure or sudden drops in the column.
7. Level the column top, place the shovel face-down on the top.
8. Perform 10 taps from your elbow with a flat hand.
9. Look again for shear failure or sudden drops.
10. Level the column top, place the shovel face-down on the top.
11. Perform 10 taps from your shoulder with a flat hand.
12. Look again for shear failure or drops.

Failure scale:

			WEAKNESS
0 taps	very easy	CT-V	Major
1-10	easy	CT-E	Very significant
11-20	moderate	CT-M	Significant
21-30	hard	CT-H	Lesser
No failure	no result	CT-N	None in column

Snow Profile Example