



This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulations and our activities with domestic and overseas organizations which are engaged in technical assessments and research in the building field.

If you no longer wish to receive this mail, please contact us at the following address:

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### §1. Recent Activities of BCJ

#### a) Structural Calculation Review Work Begins

As indicated in BCJ Web News No. 6 and 7, the Building Standard Law, the *Kenchikushi*\* Law and other related laws and regulations were amended in June 2006 to ensure regulatory compliance and to prevent recurrences of problems caused by the falsification of structural calculation documents. The effects of these amendments, which have been in force since June 20, 2007, include the tightening of building confirmation and inspection requirements, stronger guidance and supervision of designated confirmation and inspection bodies, and the introduction of more severe penalties for *Kenchikushi*. By June 28, 1,538 people had been approved by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport as candidates for the position of structural calculation reviewer. Structural calculation reviewers are specialists whose task is to review the conformance of structural calculations.

\* *Kenchikushi*: Licensed building designer (architect or engineer) under the *Kenchikushi* Law



Photo 1: Exterior view of the new office

In August 2006, BCJ established the Structural Safety Judgment Preparatory Unit and began to analyze the requirements for this work, including the tasks involved and the review organization that would need to be established. In April 2007, the Structural Safety Judgment Department was created within the Administrative Office, and the Structural Safety Judgment Section was established in the Osaka branch office. By June 20, BCJ had been designated by

thirty-one prefectural governments as a structural calculation review body and began to carry out structural calculation review work.

In preparation for the commencement of this work, which required the appointment of additional staff and more meeting rooms, BCJ relocated its Administrative Office. The new office has been in operation since May 7.

Guide map: [http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/01/01\\_05.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/01/01_05.html)



*Photo 2: The entrance of the new office*

### **(1) BCJ's Service Policy on Structural Calculation Review Work**

BCJ's basic policy is to carry out work in response to requests from prefectural governments while maintaining a proper separation between its roles as a designated structural calculation review body established by prefectural governments, and as a designated structural calculation review body providing services over a wide area.

The buildings for which these services are available will basically be large buildings and buildings for which advanced structural calculations, such as response and limit capacity method calculation or energy method calculation, have been carried out.

### **(2) Review Implementation Organization**

BCJ has appointed 14 employees (as of August 20) and 240 contract personnel to carry out this review work. We will continue to increase our staff.

We have established five committees consisting of specialists to provide expert opinions in cases requiring reviews of special structural methods or judgments based on advanced engineering knowledge. There is also a supervisory committee to ensure that all work is carried out fairly and properly.



*Photo 3: Conducting a structural calculation review*

## **§2. Recent Building-Related Developments in Japan**

### **a) The Act for Execution of Defects Warranty Liability under the HQAA**

It has become apparent that due to the problems caused by the falsification of structural calculation documents, some vendors and suppliers lack the financial resources to meet

their defect warranty liabilities for newly constructed housing, as stipulated in the Housing Quality Assurance Act (HQAA), and that purchasers have been placed at an extremely serious disadvantage as a result. To protect the interests of house buyers and to ensure that defect warranty liabilities are properly fulfilled, the Act for Execution of Defect Warranty Liability under the HQAA was promulgated on May 30, 2007. This law requires building companies and land and house agents to obtain insurance coverage or to deposit guarantee money. It also provides for the designation of Housing Defect Warranty Liability Insurance Corporations by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. These new organizations will be able to provide insurance services in conjunction with housing inspections to prevent defects.

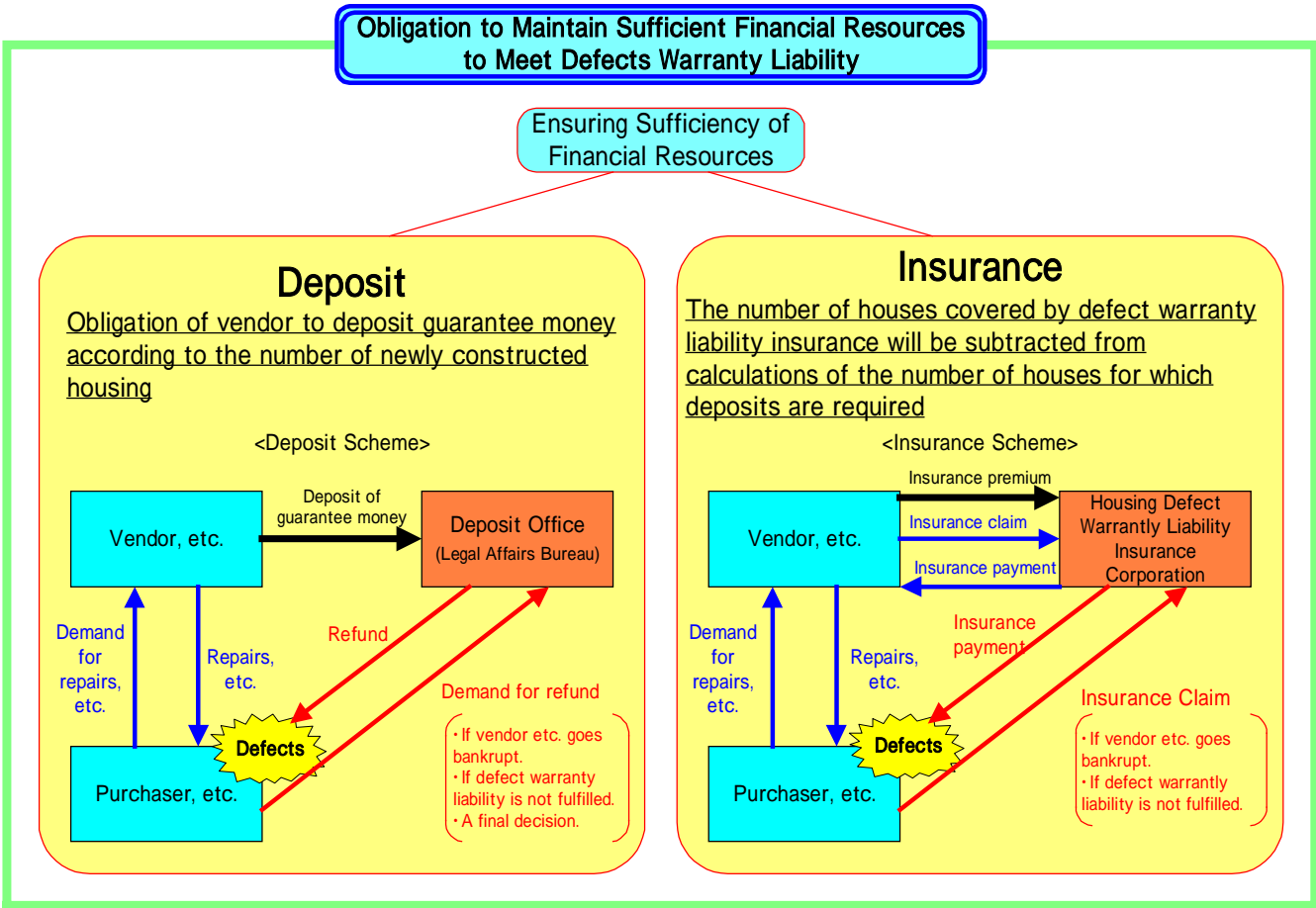


Figure 1: Diagram illustrating the obligation to maintain sufficient financial resources to meet defects warranty liability

§3. BCJ Publications in English, etc.

a) BCJ publications in English available for purchasing by credit card or check

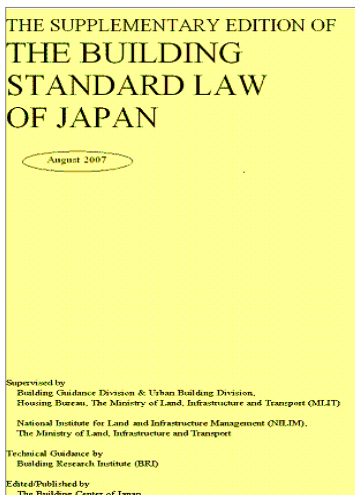
The following BCJ publications in English can now be purchased by credit card or check. For details, please visit the website indicated below.

- (1) The Building Standard Law of Japan (June 2004)
- (2) The Supplementary Edition to the Building Standard Law of Japan (November 2005)

- (3) The Housing Quality Assurance Act and Japan Housing Performance Indication Standards (2004)
- (4) The Japanese Act concerning the Rational Use of Energy and The Notifications on Judgment Criteria related to Building and Housing (2005)

[http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/03/03\\_01.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/03/03_01.html)

**b) Publication for English Translation of the Supplementary Edition of the Building Standard Law of Japan (August 2007)**



Beginning in September of this year, BCJ plans to publish the Supplementary Edition of the Building Standard Law of Japan (August 2007). The book includes regulations, which was amended in June 2006.

After publication, the book will be listed on the “Publication in English” website of BCJ. Those interested in this law should visit the website:

[http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01\\_03.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01_03.html)

*Photo 4: Cover Image of the Supplementary Edition of the Building Standard Law of Japan(August 2007)*

**c) Performance Evaluation Manuals (English) Available on BCJ Website**

BCJ has been designated by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to carry out performance evaluation work as required under the Building Standard Law. We have recently published translations of three Evaluation Manuals for “Fire-Resistive Performance for Principal Building Parts,” “Evacuation Safety Performance” and “Performance for Elevatory Equipment” on our website. They are available at the following address:

[http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01/04\\_01.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01/04_01.html)

**§4. Notices**

**a) New Executive Director**

On May 25, Executive Director Hiroharu HABU was appointed as President of the Organization for Housing Warranty. He is succeeded as Executive Director by Toshikatsu SASAI. Mr. Sasai has been involved in the planning and management of housing policy and city planning systems since joining the Ministry of Construction in 1976.



*Photo 5: Executive Director SASAI*

**b) Schedule for BCJ Participation in International Conferences in the Fall of 2007**

BCJ executives and staff will attend the following conferences in the fall of 2007.

Dates	Name of Conference	Location
September 19-21	The 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of WFTAO	Gold Coast, Australia
September 23-26	The ABCB Conference	
September 30-October 4	The ICC Annual Conference	Reno, Nevada, U.S.A.

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