

This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulations and our activities with domestic, as well as with 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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BCJ's 40th Anniversary

BCJ was established in 1965. We just celebrated our 40th anniversary on August 7, 2005. Since its establishment, responding to every demand created by socio-economic changes, BCJ has been actively involved in the evaluation of building technologies, research projects, information services and international activities. We thus contribute to the advancement of building technology and to the improvement of the quality of life. BCJ will continue to provide better and more reliable services to meet the demand of customers and society.

On this occasion, we would like to thank you for your support over the years, and at the same time we ask for your continued support.

§ 1. Recent Changes in Japanese Building Regulations and Other Information

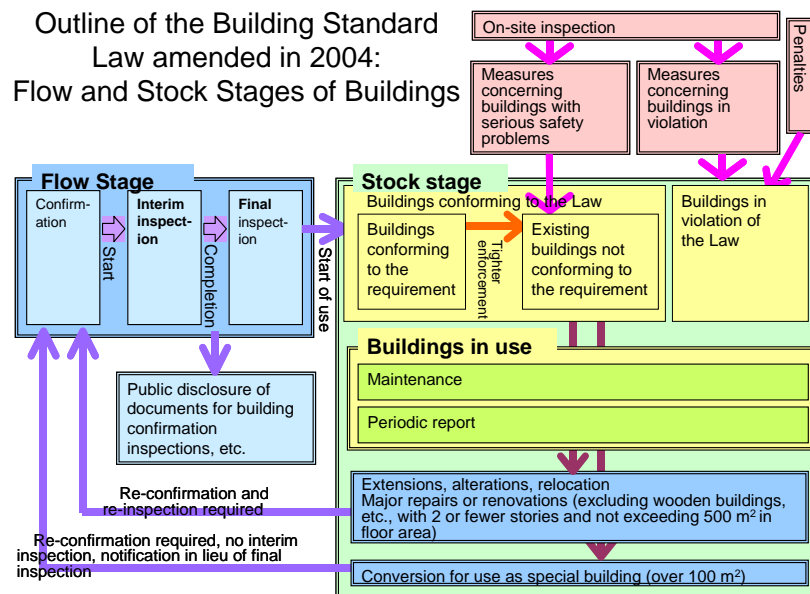
a) Proposals by the Committee for Promotion of Earthquake Damage Prevention of Buildings and Housing

The announcement of the proposals by the Committee for Promotion of Earthquake Damage Prevention of Buildings and Housing was made in June, 2005. The Committee was selected by the Minister of the MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport), aiming to lessen the losses/damage of human lives and property from earthquakes in Japan. In the proposals, a 10-year goal of an anti-seismic building rate is set at 90%(presently 75%) for housing, and for "specified buildings", such as schools, hospitals, etc. Also measures are proposed to realize the goals, such as subsidies for

retrofitting for earthquake damage prevention and an insurance system that will stimulate retrofitting by lowering premiums for earthquake-proof structures. The national government and local governments will establish systems and projects in accordance with the proposals and will carry them out.

b) Promotion of measures to secure the safety of existing buildings

Following the amendment of the Building Standard Law of Japan and related Orders from the viewpoint of securing the safety of existing buildings, in June, 2004, a precaution procedure system was introduced which gives advice to building owners to improve dangerous buildings, and on-site inspection and the periodic report system were improved in June, 2005.



c) Establishment of Housing Loan Support Agency

The Housing Loan Support Agency Act was enacted in July, 2005 as a result of administrative reforms, aiming to review the roles of the public sector. According to this act, the Housing Loan Support Agency, which will provide securitization support to banks, will be established in April, 2007, and the Government Housing Loan Corporation, dealing with direct loans to the private sector since its establishment in 1950, will be abolished.

§ 2. BCJ 5-year Management Plan and the Business Plan for 2005

BCJ developed a 5-year Management Plan in FY2004, which sets the objectives and the policy of management. We have thoroughly reviewed our activities and organization with the aim of improving our services. This plan states what our activities and organization should be in order to respond to the needs of customers and society, what new businesses we must establish in order to expand our contribution to new building technologies, and what we must do in order to ensure a sound economic base as a non-profit organization. Items a) to d) below are our main new items to be added for 2005, under the abovementioned plan:

a) Performance Evaluation (under the Building Standard Law):

BCJ will add a performance evaluation for computer programs of buildings with seismic isolation systems. It will start around September, after the MLIT approval.

b) Technical Appraisal (voluntary basis):

BCJ has begun Technical Appraisals of reinforcing steel bar for shearing, which satisfy structural strength of prefabricated units of reinforcing steel bar for housing foundation beams.

c) BCJ Approval of Innovative Building Technologies (Agrément Services: voluntary basis)

BCJ will add approvals of “paint for shielding heat” and “materials which adjust indoor humidity”, etc. as Agrément Services for environmentally friendly building materials.

d) Evolution of Surveys and Research on Tsunami Refuge Buildings



BCJ is entrusted by the MLIT with research for establishing a designation of Tsunami Refuge Buildings, which is a part of disaster management

by the Cabinet Office, owing to the research effort of BCJ on this matter in 2004.

§3. BCJ's Recent International Activities

a) Cooperative Project between ABCB and BCJ - Japanese Verification Methods for Safe Evacuation, English Version

Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) began to exhibit the English version of the Japanese Verification Methods for Safe Evacuation (JVM) on their website in May, 2005. JVM is an English document which ABCB translated from a Japanese document, “Guideline and Case Studies of Verification Methods for Safe Evacuation”, which was published by BCJ in 2001.

As BCJ has considerable experience in performance evaluation using these methods, BCJ assisted in this translation by ABCB request.

This is an outstanding result because of close cooperation between the two organizations.



ABCB website:

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=DocumentView&DocumentID=185>

b) SB05Tokyo

The 2005 World Sustainable Building Conference in Tokyo (SB05Tokyo), hosted by the MLIT, will be held from September 27 to September 29, 2005. More than 1,000 abstracts from 70 countries were submitted, and approximately 760 full papers were accepted.

BCJ is co-sponsoring and supporting this conference.

Please note that the deadline for registration is 26 August, 2005.

<http://www.sb05.com>

§ 4. BCJ Information Services in English

a) Publication of the Supplementary Edition to BSL 2005

BCJ will publish the Supplementary Edition to the Building Standard Law of Japan 2005, (The Supplementary BSL 2005) in September, 2005.

The following amendments made in 2004, after the publication of The BSL 2004, will be included:

- Amendments which ensure building safety and disaster prevention in urban areas
- Amendments relating to enactment of the Landscape Law
- Amendment of Notification No.2009 of the MLIT: Technical safety criteria of structural methods for buildings with seismic isolation systems
- Amendment of Notification No.1446 of the MLIT: Technical criteria which requires building materials to conform to the Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS), and the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS), etc.

This will be announced on our website, as well as by e-mail to purchasers of The BSL 2004.



To purchase these books:

http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01_03.html

b) BCJ Fire-preventive and Fireproof Performance Test and Evaluation

BCJ provides the following information for performance evaluations on its website:

- The Fire-preventive and Fireproof Performance Testing and Evaluation Procedure Manual
- The Application Instructions for Performance Evaluations for Fire-preventive and Fireproof Performance

http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01/02_01.html

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