

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

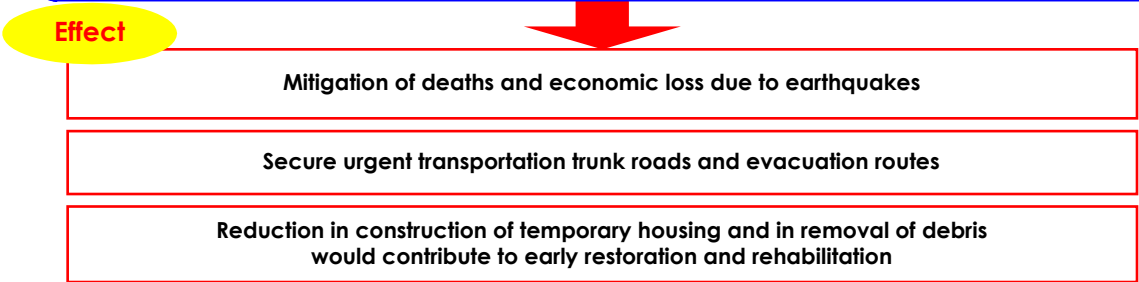
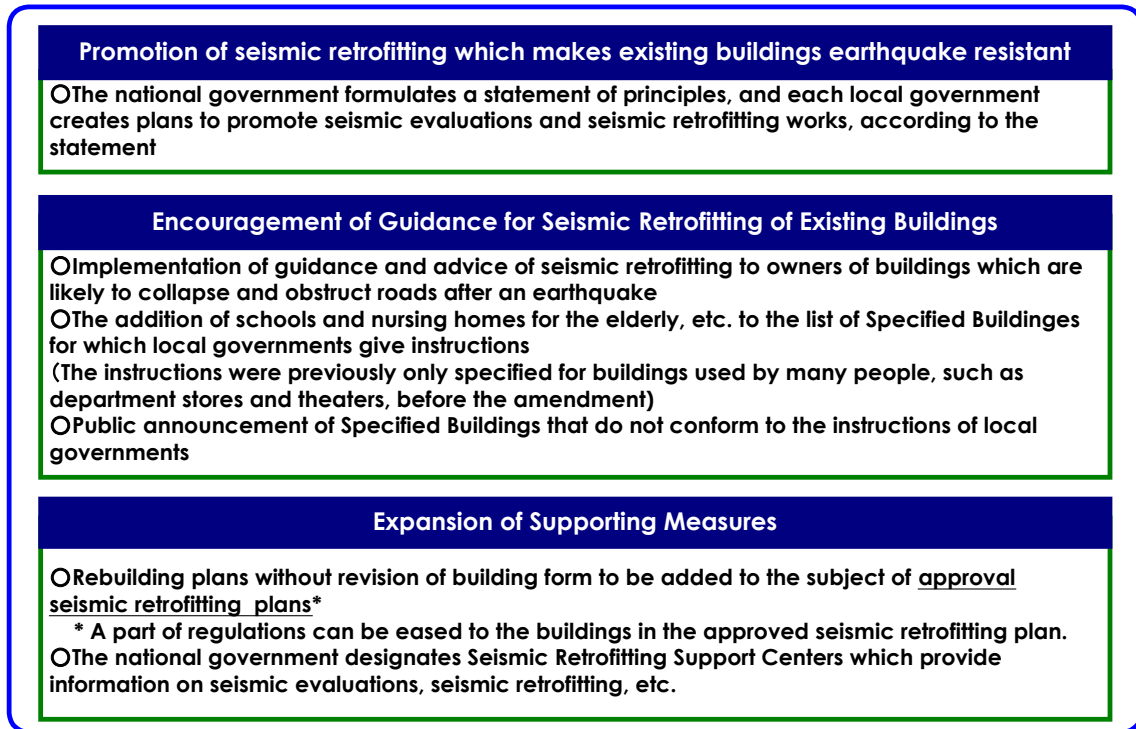
a) Falsification of Structural Calculation Documents and Government Efforts Toward a Resolution

An incident in which a qualified architect falsified structural calculation documents came to light last October. At the end of January, 2006, it was discovered that structural calculation documents had been falsified for almost 100 buildings, creating a serious social problem. In Japan, qualified architects design buildings and supervise building work, and building officials of local authorities and qualified building regulation conformity inspectors of private bodies check for conformity to the Japanese building code, which is the Building Standard Law. In spite of this system, which was intended to ensure building safety, the falsification of documents took place. Securing anti-seismic structural performance is an essential item of building construction in Japan, where earthquakes occur frequently. Reviews of the building confirmation and inspection system and related systems were begun immediately after this scandal was exposed. They continue to be carried out in an urgent manner by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), in order to ensure that such an incident does not occur again.

b) Amendment of The Act Promoting Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings

In Japan, The Act Promoting Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings was established in 1995. This act indicates a prescribed measure of seismic retrofitting, and is a guideline for buildings that do not satisfy requirements to undergo seismic evaluations and seismic retrofitting. Since the establishment of this act, the seismic retrofitting of existing buildings has been promoted, based on this act. Last year, MLIT revised this act in order to proceed with the seismic retrofitting of existing buildings which were built before 1981, and to increase the seismic retrofitting ratio of housing and Specified Buildings (schools, nursing homes for the elderly, etc.) from 75% (at present) to 90% within 10 years. This amendment was enforced in January, 2006.

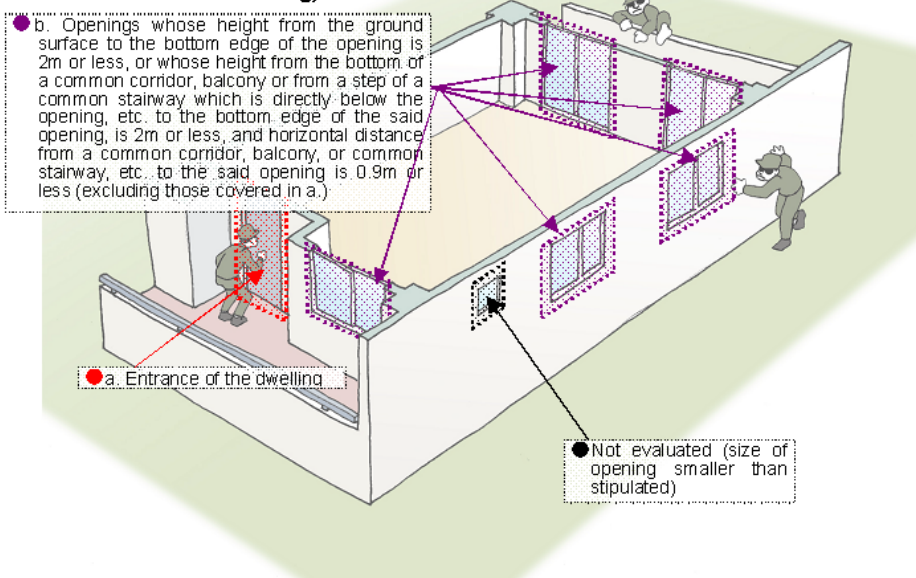
**Points of Amendment of
"The Act for Promoting Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings"**



c) The addition of matters to be indicated in The Housing Quality Assurance Act

Nine fields are evaluated in the performance indication system; structural stability, fire safety, mitigation of degradation, consideration for maintenance, thermal environment, indoor air environment, luminous and visual environment, acoustic environment and consideration for the aged.

■ Illustration of an opening entry prevention measure (apartment house: dwelling on a story where there is an entrance to the building)



As home burglaries have been increasing recently, the crime prevention performance of housing will be added to the performance indication standards in April, 2006. It will include an evaluation of burglary prevention measures.

§ 2. International Activities of BCJ since September, 2005

a) The WFTAO Meeting in France



The 10th WFTAO (World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations) meeting was held in Paris and Marne la Vallee for 3 days in September, 2005, hosted by CSTB (Centre Scientific et Technique du Batiment). BCJ attended this meeting and exchanged practical information concerning technical assessment and related matters among the member organizations. We will continue this activity to deepen understanding and to facilitate the international use of the products of the respective countries.

b) ICC Annual Conference and ICC-BCJ meeting

BCJ attended the ICC Annual Conference which was held in Detroit, Michigan, last September. Last November, BCJ held a meeting with Mr. Green and Mr. Okawa from the ICC, who visited Japan in order to attend the National Convention of Japan Conference of Building Officials. Both sides gave presentations for the purpose of updating and to create a better understanding.



c) International cooperation with ABCB



Mr. Tateishi, President of BCJ, attended Building Australia's Future 2005, which ABCB held on the Gold Coast, Australia, last September. Last November, ABCB and BCJ had a meeting in Tokyo and agreed to continue Performance Evaluation support work which BCJ has been carrying out as trials since 2004, responding to requests by ABCB.

d) Steve Hudson of ABCB visited Japan

Mr. Steve Hudson, who is a project manager at ABCB visited Japan and researched Japanese and Australian Building codes and standards from October 23 to December 3, 2005, on a seconded basis under the agreement of Code Development Collaboration between ABCB and MLIT. During that period, BCJ accepted him from Nov. 20 to 28 and provided him with information regarding performance evaluation, building inspection and related matters based on our Mutual Cooperation Agreement.



e) Acceptance of a trainee from Thailand

To support the activities of a Japanese expert who has been dispatched to Thailand by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), BCJ arranged a training program in Japan for one of his counterparts, Ms. Suree Prasertsud, who is a fire prevention specialist. BCJ accepted her on the first day of the program. We introduced her our evaluation systems under the Japanese Building Standard Law and the Housing Quality Assurance Act, with special emphasis on fire prevention performance.

§ 3. BCJ Publications in English

a) The Supplementary 2005 Edition to the BSL and Quality Performance Evaluation Manual for Building Materials

In Japan, building materials used for principal building parts, etc. must either conform to the standards specified in the Building Standard Law (BSL), or must have ministerial approval. 19 items are specified in the BSL for these materials by notification No.1446 of the Ministry. BCJ published "The Supplementary Edition to the Building Standard Law of Japan November 2005" in November, 2005. It is the English supplement to the BSL, and it includes this notification.

For more detailed information and how to purchase these books:

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

In addition, BCJ uploaded onto its website the English translations of the evaluation manual and application procedures of performance evaluation of the abovementioned building materials, which is necessary for ministerial approval. BCJ evaluates these materials as a Designated Performance Evaluation Body. They can be downloaded from our website for no charge.

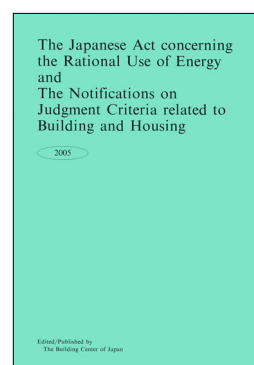
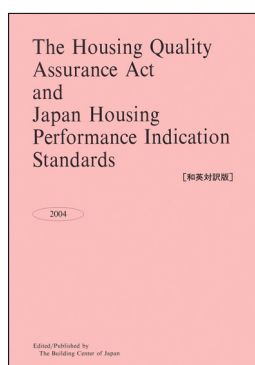
“Quality Performance Evaluation Manual for Building Materials” and “Performance Evaluation Application Procedures”:
http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01/03_01.html

b) Publication in English

BCJ translated and published, in English, “The Housing Quality Assurance Act and Japan Housing Performance Indication Standards” and “The Japanese Act concerning the Rational Use of Energy and The Notifications on Judgment Criteria Related to Building and Housing”.

For more information in English:

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



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