

This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulation and our activities to 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 Building Related Developments in Japan

#### a) Overview of Amendments to the *Kenchikushi*\* Law

As part of its efforts to secure the safety of buildings and to regain the credibility of *Kenchikushi*, which deteriorated following the scandal over the falsification of structural calculation documents, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT) has reviewed and revised the *Kenchikushi* Law. The amendments are scheduled to go into effect by December, 2008.

One of the major amendments to the *Kenchikushi* Law was the creation of two new licenses, based on the expertise of *Kenchikushi*: 1<sup>st</sup> Class Structural Design *Kenchikushi* and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Building Equipment Design *Kenchikushi*, both of whom require highly specialized knowledge and skills. As a result of this amendment, buildings of a certain size or larger must be either designed or reviewed by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Structural Design *Kenchikushi* and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Building Equipment Design *Kenchikushi* to ensure that they meet the structural and building equipment requirements stipulated in the Building Standard Law (BSL).

In addition, to improve the quality and performance of *Kenchikushi* who are already licensed, they will be required to attend regular seminars to update their knowledge and skills. Appropriate changes will be made to the eligibility requirements for taking the *Kenchikushi* license examination, along with other changes.

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

#### b) Commencement of the Structural Calculation Conformity Judgment

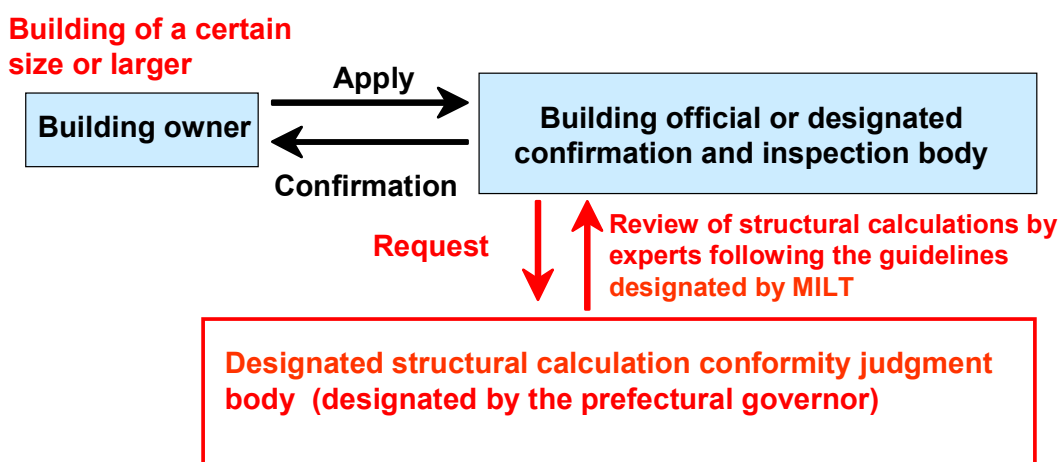
In order to prevent any recurrence of the falsification of structural calculation documents, and to ensure regulatory compliance, MLIT revised the BSL in June 2006. The Structural

Calculation Conformity Judgment System, one of the amendments, will be enforced on June 20, 2007.

In this system, when a building official or a designated confirmation and inspection body confirms a building of a certain size or larger, a designated structural calculation conformity judgment body will be requested to review the structural calculations and to determine whether or not they comply with legal criteria.

A structural calculation conformity judgment body will consist of experts on building structural engineering, and will be designated by the prefectural governor.

## Strengthen Building Confirmation and Inspection



※Red parts denote revisions

### §2. Recent Activities of BCJ

#### a) Preparations for structural calculation conformity judgment work

BCJ will commence structural calculation conformity judgment work this June, taking advantage of previous technical expertise and experience which have been cultivated in structural evaluation activities over many years. Along with other designated structural judgment bodies to be established in each prefecture, BCJ will respond to requests from prefectural governors concerning conformity judgment work, mainly for large-scale buildings and buildings using the advanced calculation method.

#### b) High-Rise Building Seminar for High-Rise Building Committee of Mongolia

As we informed you in the previous BCJ Web News, BCJ and the National Center for Construction, Urban Development and Public Utilities of Mongolia (NCCUDPU) held a meeting in Tokyo last August, at the request of NCCUDPU. We signed a memorandum of understanding on the information-exchange of building technologies. Based on this memorandum, NCCUDPU made a request to BCJ at the end of last year to organize a High-Rise Building Seminar for High-Rise Building Committee of Mongolia.

Upon receiving this request, BCJ promptly organized a seminar based on its many years of experience in the evaluation of high-rise buildings. The seminar was successfully held from January 30 to February 8, 2007. Thanks to the generous assistance and cooperation from MLIT and related organizations and one company, all of which have expertise in high-rise buildings.



Photo 1: A scene from the seminar

A broad range of lectures and site visits were provided as follows: lectures on structures, equipment, and fire prevention in relation to high-rise buildings; visits to some of Kajima Corporation’s construction sites that are equipped with seismic control and seismic isolation systems; a visit to experimental facilities at the Building Research Institute. As for the lectures, the experts at BCJ provided lectures; ‘A comparison of structural design regulations of Mongolia and Japan’ and ‘Anti-seismic system design of high-rise buildings’.



Photo 2: Site visits

The committee members will utilize the knowledge from this seminar to establish building codes and standards for high-rise buildings in Mongolia. BCJ intends to continue providing technical support.

Photo 3: Commemorative photo following the closing session (Seminar participants, lecturers and staff)



**§3. International Conferences(Since September 2006)**

**a) WFTAO Annual Meeting**



The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of WFTAO\*, hosted by ICC-ES\*\*, was held from November 1 to 3, 2006, in Pasadena, California. Participants and observers from thirteen organizations attended

this meeting. On the first day, an open seminar on the evaluation systems for building products in the United States was held. Manufacturers, evaluation organizations, standardizing bodies, and consultants presented reports from their respective perspectives, contributing to the understanding of building product evaluation in the United States. On the second and third days, participants discussed the present operations of their organizations. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2007, on the Gold Coast of Australia, to be hosted by the ABCB\*\*\*.

\*WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

\*\*ICC-ES: ICC Evaluation Service

\*\*\*ABCB: Australian Building Codes Board

#### **b) ICC Annual Conference**

The 2006 ICC\* Annual Conference was held from September 16 to 23, 2006, in Orlando, Florida. JCBO\*\* sent a 12-member delegation to the conference, including a member from BCJ. The Japanese delegation gave a presentation on the recent progress of the revision of the Building Standard Law, and participated in business meetings, educational seminars, and other programs, including code development hearings.

\*ICC: International Code Council

\*\*JCBO: Japan Conference of Building Officials

#### **c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology**

Four organizations, BCJ, CBL\*, CADRG\*\*, and CABR\*\*\* held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology from October 23 to 25, 2006, in Kunshan City, China. From the common understanding of an urgent need to establish an environmentally friendly building technology, the participants discussed the latest energy conservation technologies of their countries. The four organizations also exchanged information on new rural planning in China, regional housing planning in Japan, the administrative procedures involved in real estate development in China, and the evolution of prefabricated housing in Japan. The presentations of the Chinese side will be available on the BCJ website.

\*CBL: The Center for Better Living

\*\*CADRG: The China Architecture  
Design and Research Group

\*\*\*CABR: China Academy of  
Building Research



Photo 4: Scene from the conference

#### **d) The 19<sup>th</sup> Japan-France Building Colloquium**

BCJ and CSTB\* held the 19<sup>th</sup> Japan-France Building Colloquium in Tokyo, with site visits in Kyoto, from November 15 to 17, 2006. On the first day, BCJ and CSTB exchanged new information regarding their activities related to environmental matters of industrialization

of construction, positive energy buildings, and technical assessment. On the second day, a joint conference was held, attended by BCJ, CSTB, MLIT and the French Ministry for Employment, Social Cohesion and Housing. The participants discussed product and material databases, energy conservation, and fire prevention.

BCJ intends to upload the presentation by the French side onto the BCJ website.

\*CSTB: Centre Scientifique et Technique du Batiment



Photo 5: A commemorative photo after the conference

#### e) Meeting with ABCB

BCJ and ABCB have been holding meetings and exchanging information on a regular basis. In their meeting on December 15, 2006, at BCJ in Tokyo, the two sides exchanged information on performance evaluation in Japan and on ABCB's CodeMark certification, and discussed building code conformity systems of both countries.

#### §4. Notice on Office Relocation

Due to the growth in its activities, BCJ's head office is scheduled for relocation to the address below, as of May 7, 2007. We will provide further details by e-mail as soon as they are available.

New address: 6-1-8, Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

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