



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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On March 11, 2011, the *Tohoku* region of Japan (Northeast Japan) was hit by a huge earthquake and an enormous *tsunami*. We have received very many heartfelt messages of concern and encouragement from our overseas partners. Please be assured that none of our staff were harmed and our organization did not experience any major damage. The Tokyo Metropolitan Area, where BCJ is located, had only minimal damage. We believe that Japan will overcome the devastation of the *Tohoku* region.



Thank you all for your kind concern.

§ 1. **Toward a new regulation requiring all newly built buildings and housing to comply with energy efficiency standards**

On November 12th 2010, MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) and METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) published basic roadmap toward a new regulation making it mandatory for all newly built buildings and housing units to comply with energy efficiency standards by 2020. The aim of the regulation is to strengthen energy-saving measures of the private sectors (business and related sectors, and the household sector), of which CO2 emissions account for approximately one-third of the total CO2 emissions in Japan.

Existing Act Concerning the Rational Use of Energy requires building owners, who newly construct buildings with a floor area of 300 m² or more, to submit notifications to local governments on the energy saving measures for their buildings. When the measures are conspicuously inadequate, the local government may take actions, such as provision of counseling and orders to the building owners. As a result of these measures, about 90% of new non-residential buildings with a total floor area of 2,000 m² or more are in compliance

with the energy efficiency standards at present, while newly-built small-scale buildings and housing in compliance with energy efficiency standards are expected to account for only 10-20%. This is because the submission of notification on the energy-saving measures is not yet required for small-scale buildings and housing.

The tentative policy is as below;

Target of the new regulation

The target of the new regulation will be new construction of buildings and housing (including major repairs and major remodeling); existing buildings and housing will not be included in the target. The first buildings to be targeted will be large-scale buildings. The target will be expanded to include small-scale buildings and housing by 2020.

The mandatory standards

Standard items to be drafted;

- Thermal insulation for such parts as exterior walls and windows
- Natural-energy use
- Energy consumption by MEP systems, such as heating, cooling and hot-water supply systems

Points to be considered;

- Objectivity
- Feasibility
- Locality (Assessment of wide ranging efforts to improve energy efficiency, with consideration for the climate and the natural features of the area.)

The leading standards

The leading standards will be used for comprehensive assessment of buildings and housing in terms of renewable energy sources, such as solar power generation, etc., in addition to the mandatory standards. They are expected to contribute to introduce ZEB/ZEH (Net-Zero Energy Buildings/Houses) and LCCM (Life-Cycle Carbon-Minus) Housing.

§ 2 . The 21st Japan-France Building Colloquium

On December 8th and 9th, 2010, BCJ and CSTB¹ held their 21st regular conference in Tokyo, Japan.

On the first day, BCJ and CSTB exchanged new information regarding their activities. On the second day, a joint conference was held, attended by BCJ, CSTB, MLIT² and MEDDTL³. The meeting provided a very good window into the recent trends in the building and the housing sectors of both countries.



Scene from the joint conference

¹CSTB: Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment

²MLIT: Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

³MEDDTL: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transports and Housing



Presentation at the colloquium



A commemorative photo after the colloquium

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

- CSTB update

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-F-1.pdf

- High performance thermal insulating materials

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-F-2.pdf

- ETA and CE Marking, Current trends and perspectives

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-F-3.pdf

- CSTB and China, Technical information exchange and cooperation among Chinese organizations

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-F-4.pdf

- Financial incentives for energy-efficiency measures in residential buildings

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-1-2.pdf

- Energy-efficiency measures in housing and buildings, Most commonly used techniques

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-1-3.pdf

- The French West Indies earthquake plan

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-2-2.pdf

- Earthquake resistance regulations in France

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-2-3.pdf

- Information technologies in the construction sector

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/conference/src/21-2-3-2.pdf

§ 3. BCJ Publications in English

a) QUICK LOOK AT HOUSING IN JAPAN (8th Edition) to be Published

Quick Look was first published in 1985 to promote international awareness of the housing situation and housing policies in Japan. It has since been updated seven times to reflect policy changes and shifts in the housing situation. We plan to publish the eighth edition in April, 2011.

This document may be downloaded for free from the following website:

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/reference.html>


	<p>The current edition A QUICK LOOK AT HOUSING IN JAPAN November 2009</p> <p>Price: Free Date: PDF format Language: English/Japanese Pages: 106 (Print Size: A4) Date of publication: 2010.3.31</p>
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b) The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (May 2009)

This is an English translation of the Japanese building code. It includes all of the amendments enforced through June 1, 2008.

For more detailed information, and to purchase this CD-ROM, please visit:

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/publication.html>

	<p>The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (May 2009) Price: ¥10,000 (¥500 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan) Date: PDF format Language: English Pages: 1,120 (Print Size: A4) CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh) Date of publication: 2009.5.28 ISBN: 978-4-88910-150-8</p>
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c) Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan

BCJ has published an English booklet that outlines the Building Standard Law of Japan: “Introduction to the Building Standard Law: Japanese Building Codes and Building Control System (Ver. April 2010)”, which is on the BCJ website. This is a free document to facilitate the understanding of the Building Standard Law of Japan (unabridged), and its related regulations.

This document may be downloaded for free from the following website;

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/reference.html>

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