



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:

kokusai@bcj.or.jp

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§ 1 . Recent topics on Buildings and Housing in Japan

In Japan, in order to reduce the potential damages from the powerful earthquakes that are expected to occur, such as in the Nankai Trough (offshore Southwest Japan) and a powerful inland earthquake in the Tokyo metropolitan area, the following countermeasures are being taken.

a) Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of old buildings

As we informed in our web-news No.19, in order to promote seismic retrofitting of old buildings and housing, the Law for Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings was amended on May 29, 2013, and will be enforced on November 25, 2013. The amendment includes stronger regulations and obligation to undertake seismic assessment, followed by a public announcement of the results. This will be enforced by the end of 2015, for buildings such as hospitals, shops, hotels and others that have public access, and for facilities such as large-scale schools, and nursing homes for the elderly, which are used by people fleeing a disaster who are likely to have difficulty evacuating. Also, the expansion and increases in subsidy programs, along with further tax reductions have been added in order to promote the smooth seismic retrofitting of buildings.

b) Preventive measures against the possibility of ceilings falling, elevators falling and escalators dropping

As we had many cases of ceilings falling, elevators falling and escalators dropping during the Great East-Japan Earthquake in March 2011, the Building Standard Law Enforcement Order, the Enforcement Regulations and the related Notifications were amended in order to secure the structural safety of buildings.

They are as follow:

(1) preventive measures against ceilings falling

Either compliance with the specification requirements, verification of performance based on structural calculations or obtaining ministerial approval, based on advanced verification,

is required for suspended ceilings that have an area of more than 200 square meters, and that are set at a height of more than 6 meters from the floor of a new building.

For existing buildings, preventive measures that are applicable to rebuilding and to additions have been added to the standards.

(2) preventive measures against escalators dropping and elevators falling

Concerning elevators and amusement facilities, as there were many incidents of falling counterweights of elevators and of amusement facilities, as well as deformation of rails of escalators, a construction method that is not likely to permit falling, or for which safety can be verified based on the structural calculations, is required for escalators.

Concerning escalators, to prevent dropping of escalators due to quakes, construction methods that are not likely to permit dropping are required. If not, ministerial approvals based on advanced verification are required.

(3) Long-period earthquake motions and responses

Verification of structural safety of buildings against long-period earthquake motions and responses is currently being undertaken by the government. Public comment was invited regarding tentative countermeasures for long-period earthquake motions and responses. Further studies on earthquake motions and their effects on high-rise buildings, as well as a review of the tentative countermeasures and of earthquake motions for design, and others, will be carried out.

§ 2 . Report on BCJ Activities

a) CASBEE*1 Properties Assessment

CASBEE is a method to assess environmental performance of buildings. A new assessment, for property, has been added to it. CASBEE Properties Assessment is expected to accelerate the dissemination of sustainable buildings on the property market.

There are 5 classifications in the assessment index and it includes 21 items. These items are intended to replace LEED, BREEAM, etc.

BCJ has also received approval from IBEC*2 and began the CASBEE Properties Assessment service in October of this year. This was at the same time that the third party assessment and certification service began.

Outline of the CASBEE Properties Assessment

Expectation of utilization and application on the property market; indication of environmental performance and value assessment on property, etc.

■ Assessment Index

5 classifications (below) and 21 assessment items in total

1. Energy/Green house gases
2. Water
3. Resource utilization/Security
4. Biodiversity/Building site
5. Indoor environments

- Reflecting the common index suggested by UNEP
- Setting items that can replace LEED, BREEAM, etc.

■ How to Assess

- Point scoring on a scale of one hundred
- Indicate the number of marks (☆) based on the score (Corresponding to 5 grades: Rank S, A, B+, B- and C)

- ◆ Requirements: a building satisfying both (1) and (2) below

(1) The main utilization is for offices
※In principle, the use of more than 80% of total floor area is considered to be an office.

(2) 1 year or more must have passed since completion of the building
(There is some possibility that evaluation target (building use) will be extended by the development of evaluation methods.)

*1 CASBEE: Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency

*2 IBEC: Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation

b) The 18th WFTAO*3 Annual Meeting in Berlin

From Sep. 16 to 19, 2013, the 18th WFTAO annual meeting was held in Berlin Germany, hosted by DIBt*4. Twenty-five people from 16 organizations from 15 countries, including BCJ and two observers, participated in the meeting.

On Day 2, an open seminar, “Come Together”, was held, where information on global approval procedures was exchanged among 25 WFTAO meeting participants and 35 people from German industry. A short review of the seminar with all the presentations is shown on the DIBt-website:

<http://www.dibt.de/en/DIBt/Whats-new.html>

The next meeting will be held in September, 2014.



Participants of the meeting in Berlin, Sep. 16, 2013

*3 WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

*4 DIBt: Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik

§ 3 . Report on International Training Seminar

a) JICAz*5 Group Training Courses

In 2013, BCJ organized and operated the following training programs, which were entrusted to us by JICA:



Lecture in the historical townscape preservation district

- Group Training Course: *Disaster Prevention of Buildings (against Earthquake, Tsunami, Fire, etc.)*, Jul. 9-Aug. 10 (12 participants from 12 countries)

- Group Training Course: *Improvement and Disaster Prevention of Housing and Living Environments*, Oct. 17-Nov. 28 (9 participants from 7 countries)

*5 JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

b) The 25th IYSH*6 Housing Seminar*

BCJ was entrusted by the Japan Housing Association with the operations of the 2013 IYSH Housing Seminar. The seminar was conducted from Aug. 19-23, 2013. Twelve students from 6 countries and regions participated in the seminar.

The program consisted of lectures on the housing situation and the housing policy in Japan, and site-visits to high-density urban areas, the historical-townscape preservation district, public housing, and others. The participants also made



The technical visit of housing company

presentations on what they had learned in the seminar and discussions were held on each presentation

*6 IYSH Housing Seminar: Housing seminar for foreign students and trainees in Japan in commemoration of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

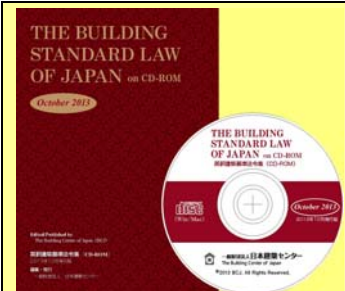
§ 4 . BCJ Publications in English

Revised Version: The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (October 2013)

This is the revision of the English translation of the Japanese Building Code. It includes all of the amendments enforced through January 1, 2013.

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 (October 2013)</p> <p>Price: ¥10,000 (¥500 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)</p> <p>Data: PDF format</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Pages: 1,294 (Print Size: A4)</p> <p>CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh)</p> <p>Date of publication: 2013.10</p> <p>ISBN: 978-4-88910-160-7</p>
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◆About The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (October 2013)

This CD-ROM is an English publication of the following, which includes

1. The Building Standard Law of Japan
all of the amendments enforced through January 1, 2013;
 - The Building Standard Law
 - The Building Standard Law Enforcement Order
 - The Building Standard Law Enforcement Regulation (except Annexed Forms)
 - The Ministerial Order Concerning Designated Qualifying Examination Body and Others Based on The Building Standard Law (except Annexed Forms)
 - Notifications of MLIT (74)
 - Glossary

This English edition is an unofficial translation. It is important to note that only the original Japanese texts of Laws, Orders, Regulations and Notifications are the official and legally binding versions. If there is any doubt, please consult the original Japanese edition.

2. Introduction to the Building Standard Law :Japanese Building Codes and Building Control System

◆Minimum hardware/platform requirements

OS	【Windows】Windows® 2000 【Mac】Mac OS X
CPU	【Windows】Intel® Pentium® III 850Mhz 【Mac】G4 650Mhz
RAM	256MB
free hard-disk space	60MB of available hard-disk space
CD-ROM drive	data-reading speed of 12x
PDF file viewer	Adobe® Reader® 6.0 (recommended)

International Dept.

The Building Center of Japan (BCJ)

1-9, Kanda-Nishikicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8986, JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-5283-0479 Fax: +81-3-5281-2822

E-mail: kokusai@bcj.or.jp

URL: <http://www.bcj.or.jp/>

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