

Research Trends and Results

Efforts of Preparation for the Draft of Building Related Technical Standards

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1. Background

Although technical standards for the security of safety have been stipulated in the building standards law or the like, in regard to technical standards, it is necessary to appropriately reevaluate them based on the progress of investigative research and technological development and the lessons of disasters.

For this reason, as a system to carry out standardization based on the result of studies in NILIM and the building standards promotion projects (the subsidiary projects by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism: the Nation configures research subjects relevant to the improvement of building standards to subsidize research expenses for operation entities selected by open recruitment), the Building Structural Standards Committee (Chairperson: Tetsuo Kubo, Professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, from fiscal 2013) will be established and the Building Fire Prevention Standards Committee (Chairperson: Makoto Tsujimoto, professor at the Tokyo University of Science, from fiscal 2012) in NILIM, the system to prepare drafts of technical standards has been established based on external experts' opinions. Furthermore, aiming to upgrade/streamline for technical standards, we will establish "Contact Point" to widely deal with proposals for improvements/reevaluations from private sectors or the like.

2. Building Fire Prevention Standards Committee

For timber buildings whose gross area exceeds 3,000m², due to concern to affect tremendous risks to peripheries in the case of fire of the building concerned, in accordance with the Building Standards Law, Article 21, Paragraph 2, it is now compulsory that major structures shall be made fire-resistive construction. Furthermore, structures which a multitude of persons utilize and those to be used for

sleeping, in order for staying persons to ensure evacuation/rescue, to make it fire-resistive building or quasi-fire-resistive building according to the number of stories or areas is made compulsory and a three story school shall be a fire-resistive building.

In the Building Fire Prevention Standards Committee, based on the results of fire experiments by actual scale models for timber structure schools which had been implemented from fiscal 2011 to 2013, deliberations were carried out in reference to reevaluations for the provisions or the like concerned in regard to timber structure three story schools (held five times in fiscal 2013 by December).

3. Contact Point

The Contact Point* is where we receive proposals from private operators with respect to reevaluations for technical standards and the improvement for new standards based on the Building Standards Law or the like, and with regard to proposals received, deliberations are carried out in cooperation with the Building Research Institute, in NILIM in view of technical aspects. For FY 2013, four cases of proposals have newly been received (as of December), and we have been carrying out deliberations in tandem with proposals received in the past.

*Inaugurated on the homepage on the Information Center for Building Administration

4. Schedule in the future

Based on the trend of deliberation in the Council for Social Infrastructure, we are continuing to carry out deliberations on reevaluations for technical standards in compliance with the development for investigation research and progress and so on.