

Survey on Current Situation of Digitization of Periodic Reports and Data Utilization by Specific Administrative Agencies

(Period of Study: FY 2015)

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1. Foreword

The periodic report as specified in Article 12 of the Building Standards Act is information related to the maintenance and preservation of buildings. In an era of stock models, it is increasingly important to effectively use this information to ensure safety in everyday life and disaster prevention, among other things. Currently, the Japanese national and local governments have been making efforts to promote the extensive use of information technology (IT) with the aim of further improving operating efficiency and further enhancing the quality of public services. Such efforts include the digitization and processing into databases of building administration-related information.

In this paper, we would like to share the results of our survey, focusing on an actual situation of the digitization and management of periodic reports by specific administrative agencies.

2. Survey Overview

A questionnaire survey was conducted during the period from December 2015 to January 2016, covering a total of 171 administrative agencies. The purpose of the survey was to investigate methods for the preparation, storage, and updating of periodic report ledgers; the actual situation of the digitization of periodic survey reports, etc.; and the effects of such digitization for business operations, etc. The 171 administrative agencies were those in 47 prefectures, ordinance-designated cities (with a population of 250,000 or more) as specified in Article 4.1 of the Building Standards Act, the 23 special wards of Tokyo as specified of Article 97.2 of the Building Standards Act, and 13 cities and wards that were selected at random from the ordinance-designated cities in Article 4.2 of the Building Standards Act.

3. Summary of Survey Results

With regard to methods for the preparation, storage, and updating of periodic report ledgers, the highest number of administrative agencies surveyed responded that they digitize the ledgers by using spreadsheet software, etc., and store them on servers within the agencies. They account for 66% of the total agencies surveyed, 72% of those surveyed in the prefectures, and 63% of those surveyed in the cities and wards. Seventeen percent of the total surveyed responded that they store the ledgers in systems uniquely developed and operated by them. On the other hand, a certain number of administrative agencies responded that they retain the ledgers in paper form, accounting for 11% of the agencies surveyed in the prefectures and 5% of those surveyed in the cities and wards.

With regard to an actual situation of the digitization of periodic survey reports, etc., about half of the total administrative agencies surveyed responded that they had already digitized them. Additionally, 9% of the total surveyed responded either that they had already made preparations for digitization or that they were in the process of studying digitization. Conversely, 41% of the total administrative agencies surveyed responded that they did not have any digitization plan. In terms of digitization, we have seen a tendency in which administrative agencies with a higher annual number of applications received were more aggressive in

introducing digitization. With regard to consistency between a construction confirmation ledger and information in periodic reports, many of the administrative agencies surveyed responded that there was no consistency between them.

A question about the benefits of digitization was asked of the administrative agencies that had already introduced digitization, and the results of their responses are shown in Figure 1. As can be seen from Figure 1, 84% of the total administrative agencies asked responded that the benefit of digitization was to promptly extract the necessary information. With regard to the utilization of digitization for ensuring safety in everyday life and disaster prevention, approximately 15% of the total administrative agencies surveyed responded affirmatively, although there were slight differences in percentages between administrative agencies in the prefectures and those in the cities and wards. Approximately 46% of the administrative agencies in the prefectures, and only approximately 7% of those in the cities and wards responded that digitization enabled them to extract information on critical inspection items more readily, showing that there was a big difference in response between those in the prefectures and those in the cities and wards.

4. Next Steps

Based on the analysis results of the current survey, we will develop measures to promote the electronic submission of periodic reports and digitization of database thereof.

*This study has been carried out as part of the general technology development project entitled "Development of information storage and utilization technologies to help improve the efficiency and sophistication of preservation and maintenance of social capital, etc."

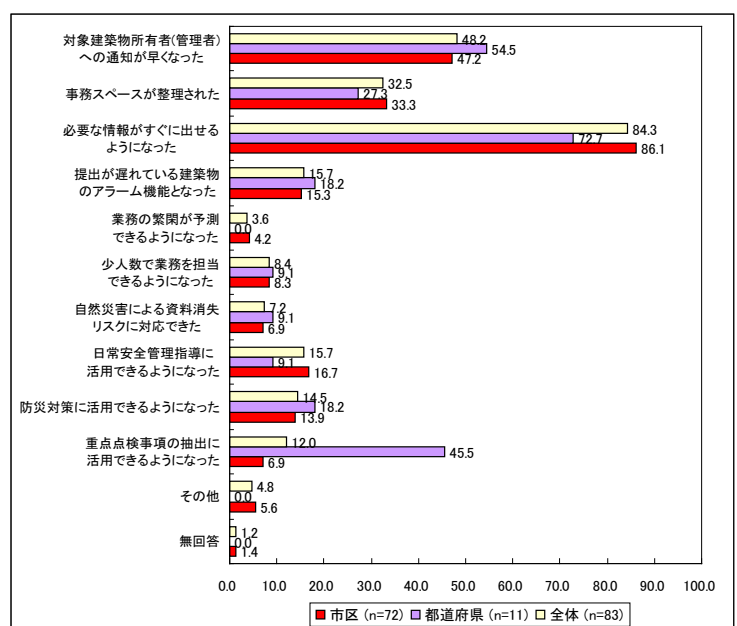


Figure 1. Effects of digitization of periodic survey reports, etc.