

For a better home,  
a better living environment  
and better construction



一般財団法人

ベターリビング

Center for Better Living

<https://www.cbl.or.jp>

# Quality Housing Components (BL Components) Certification

## Housing Components and Related Businesses Development division

### BL Components Certification System

The BL Components Certification System is used to certify applicable housing components as 'Quality Housing Components (BL Components)' based on certification standards for performance (safety, functionality, and durability), production quality, and after-sales service. (There are currently 65 BL certified components in use as of April 2023 including kitchen systems, water heaters, windows, and garages etc.).

Housing components with additional features that are designed in particular to meet societal demands regarding energy conservation, assistance for the elderly, use of housing stock, improvement of crime prevention and other considerations are certified as 'BL-bs Components.'

### Dissemination of BL Components

The BL label is displayed on BL Components and in catalogs as a symbol of reliability. CBL promotes the dissemination of BL Components through activities conducted in collaboration with certified companies and related industries.

### Support with guarantee of quality by BL insurance

There are two types of BL insurance, namely warranty liability and indemnity liability, which support the implementation of liability for damage caused by defects, and defect warranty liability relating to BL Components' design, manufacturing and the construction of installation work for the components.

### Customer services

Customer services Tel 03-5211-0680

CBL accepts inquiries from users relating to matters including after-service and defects concerned with items such as BL Components. CBL also cooperates with relevant companies and provides support through means such as introducing appropriate consulting services and repair services, etc., when necessary.

### JIS Certification

As a product certification body registered in Japan, CBL performs products certification following seven standards based on the JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards) mark system under the Industrial Standardization Law. There are seven JIS standards applicable such as windows, door sets, sealed insulating glass, and precast prestressed concrete products etc.



ENE-FARM  
(Household fuel cell  
co-generation system)



BL label

## Testing, Assessment, Type approval and Certification

### Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory/Housing and Building Evaluation Center

#### Performance tests for building systems, components and materials

Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory (TBTL) performs various performance tests and research for construction in general such as building materials, parts and the construction methods of structures including housing components, from the fair and neutral position of a third party as a public test research organization.

#### Assessment (Certification of conformity to technical standards)

CBL conducts assessments as a third party to rate conformity with the Building Standards Law and other technical standards of building materials and parts, construction methods of structures, and construction quality.

#### Relating to the Building Standards Law

##### [Performance evaluation related to approval of construction methods, etc.]

As a designated performance evaluation organization, CBL evaluates performance in 24 classifications such as fireproofing, time history response analysis, wall magnification of frame constructed walls methods and framework methods, building material quality (including formaldehyde emitting construction material), elevators and omission of drawing documents for piles.

##### [Approval of specific-type components and certification of specific-type housing components manufacturers]

CBL approves compliance with the provisions of laws and standards in the fields of building parts, fire safeguards, ventilation systems, water supply facilities and elevators as well as certifying the manufacturers of specific-type-approved housing components.

#### Relating to the Housing Quality Assurance Act

##### [Tests related to approval of special evaluation methods]

CBL performs tests related to special construction methods etc., as a means of supplementing the evaluation method standards in the housing performance indication system.

##### [Approval of specific-type housing performance and certification of specific-type housing manufacturers]

CBL approves conformity to standards in the performance of standard design (specific-type-approved) housing or part as well as certifying the manufacturers of specific-type-approved housing.



Main building for testing and research



Testing device for bending pile



Horizontal heating furnace

# Building Confirmation and Inspection, Housing Performance Evaluation, etc.

## Housing and Building Evaluation Center

### Building confirmation and inspection

As a designated confirmation and inspection body, CBL checks the compliance of buildings to provisions related to the Building Standards Law, and performs interim inspections, final inspections and provisional use approval.

### Structural calculation review

As a designated structural calculation review body, CBL judges the conformity of building-related structural calculations to the Building Standard Law at the request of building officials or designated confirmation and inspection bodies.

### Housing performance evaluation

As a registered housing performance evaluation body, CBL evaluates new and existing housing in accordance with the evaluation methods specified in the Housing Performance Indication System.

### Review of conformity to energy-efficiency standards

As a registered 'Energy-saving review body' and a registered 'Energy-saving evaluation body', CBL reviews the conformity to energy-efficiency standards and evaluates energy consumption performance of buildings.

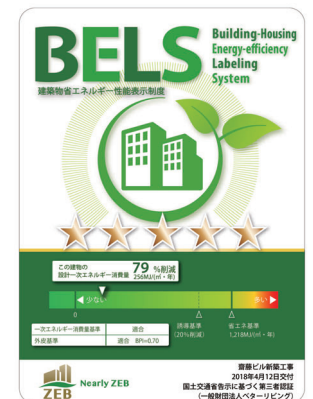
### Other

CBL undertakes the following assessments etc.

- BELS (Building Energy-efficiency Labeling System) evaluation
- CASBEE (Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency) evaluation
- Technical evaluation of emergency promotion projects for disaster prevention and energy saving town planning
- Certification of conformity for the Japan Housing Finance Agency
- Site inspections for housing defect liability insurance
- Technical review of new construction plans of low carbon buildings
- Certification of Tokyo zero emission house.
- Other non-statutory review, evaluation and inspection services.



Housing performance evaluation  
(Reinforcement arrangement inspection)



BELS Label

## Management System Certification and Registration

### System Certification and Registration Center

### ISO management system certification and registration

CBL certifies and registers organizations which build and operate management systems based on ISO 9001 as the international standard for quality management systems, etc.

#### [ISO 9001 (Quality management system)]

ISO 9001 is a management system governing a consistent supply of products and services of a quality that meets customers' and society's requirements.

#### [ISO 14001 (Environmental management system)]

ISO 14001 is a management system for identifying and appropriately controlling the causes of environmental damage.

#### [ISO/IEC 27001 (Information security management system (ISMS))]

ISO/IEC 27001 is a management system for identifying information resources such as personal data and maintaining their confidentiality. Also, as an expanded standard, CBL support Privacy information Management Systems (PIMS) and ISMS Cloud Security Certification, and have established a system to provide a wide range of certification services related to the information security field.

#### [ISO45001 (Occupational Health & Safety Management System)]

ISO 45001 is a management system used to evaluate and manage occupational safety risks in work activities in order to prevent or otherwise minimize the occurrence of occupational accidents.



Certificate of registration

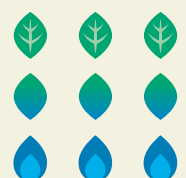


Certification mark

## 住宅部品 × SDGs 宣言



In October 2020, CBL declared in collaboration with the Association of Living Amenity that they will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) advocated by the United Nations through the development, supply, dissemination and so forth of quality housing components that contribute to the realization of safety, security and comfortable living lifestyles over the course of 10 years of business activities.



ガスで森をつくる。  
BLUE & GREEN  
PROJECT

# Support for Formation and Utilization of Quality housing stock

Housing Components and Related Businesses Development division/ Public Relations and Information Group

## Information management related to housing and housing components

CBL manages traceability information to identify dwelling units installed with products for housing components that require regular inspection and replacement.

Provides an information system where housing history information such as repair records, design drawing documents used when existing housing is bought and sold, and renovation or maintenance management for housing inspection and repairs can be stored and browsed.

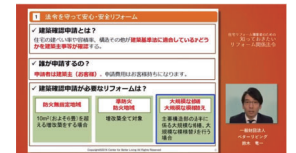
## Promotion of housing renovation

CBL cooperates with the 'Better Life Reform Association' and promotes housing renovation to achieve a safe, secure and convenient life for consumers through initiatives aimed at improving the reliability, proposal making ability and technical capability of small to medium-sized renovation businesses in the region.

As part of these initiatives, CBL assists housing renovation business operators by providing services that include a better life housing renovation advisor registration system and a renovation work quality examination registration system.



lekarute (housing history information) logo



On demand lecture for the Better Life housing renovation advisor registration system

# Surveys, Research, Dissemination of Technology and related activities

Sustainable Living Research Center/ Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory

## Surveys and Research

At the request of public institutes and companies or in its role as a foundation, CBL independently performs investigations and research to contribute towards achieving sustainable housing and lifestyles, develops new construction methods and also performs technical investigations and research from the perspective of energy saving and disaster prevention, etc., and then transmits this information.

## Building technology review and certification

In order to examine the various new technologies related to housing, etc., developed in the private sector, and to promote its dissemination, CBL evaluates the relevant technology from a fair and neutral perspective and creates examination certificates and associated reports.

## Performs housing and construction related information exchange, technical exchange and conducts training courses

- CBL transmits information useful for the lives of consumers using results from surveys and research relating to housing and housing components. Also, CBL performs tasks such as exchanging information with affiliate companies based on these results and contributes towards growth in the housing industry.
- CBL provides practical training courses useful for improving the skills of individual engineers as well as lectures and technical presentations as an opportunity to convey information to those in the housing and construction related industry.

## International exchange

CBL aims to exchange and collaborate with related organizations both domestically and internationally for the purpose of international exchange in the housing and construction field and also performs activities such as participating in international conferences and accepting training or research groups from overseas.



Research leaflet



Bulletin of TBTL

Visit the website for details of the operation of each Center or Group of CBL.

ベターリビング

検索

The 'Blue & Green project' disseminates energy conservation type gas water heaters and heating appliances to households in Japan, and at the same time, supports planting trees as an activity that contributes to the environment. CBL is promoting the project in cooperation with the Japanese gas industry.



Following the tree-planting activities in Vietnam, CBL is supporting the restoration activities in Takada Matsubara (Rikuzentakada city, Iwate Prefecture) which was destroyed by a tsunami resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

ガスで森

検索

<http://www.gasdemori.jp/>



# Center for Better Living provides security, safety and reliability through its standards certification and test research relating to housing and buildings.

The Center for Better Living (CBL) was established as a foundation, the 'Jyutaku Buhin Kaihatsu Center' in 1973, after being granted approval from the Ministry of Construction (currently known as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) with the aim of contributing to improvement in living standards of its citizens. In the following year of 1974, CBL started work on certifying Quality Housing Components (BL Components) and their dissemination after getting designated as an organization to evaluate BL Components. CBL opened a Performance Test Laboratory in 1981 focusing on housing components related items in Tsukuba city and then aimed at developing and improving various test and research functions. Furthermore, CBL dealt with matters including the dissemination of ISO management system standards, the revision of the Building Standards Law, the establishment of the Housing Quality Assurance Act and the Building Energy Efficiency Act, and extended our business to implementing a variety of assessment work.

CBL changed its name to 'Better Living' in 1988 and was transformed into a general incorporated foundation in 2011 due to the reform of the public-interest corporations system.

Currently, as a fair and neutral third-party organization, CBL conscientiously performs survey research as well as work for evaluating, testing and registering the design, construction, components and materials for buildings including housing.

As Japanese society has a decreasing and elderly population, initiatives are urgently being sought to deal with the decreasing birth rate and aging population, as well as the state of housing and construction, such as achieving goals toward the construction of a decarbonized society and the preservation of safety and security in the face of increasingly severe natural disasters.

CBL will more earnestly than ever face these issues head on from the position of a standards certification and test research organization for housing and buildings and will continue to contribute towards the realization of better homes, a better living environment and better construction.

*Jun Manabe*, President

## History

1973	Approval granted by the Ministry of Construction (MOC), established as a foundation, the 'Jyutaku Buhin Kaihatsu Center'.
1974	Designated as a Quality Housing Component Certifying Organization by the MOC.
1981	Opening of the Performance Test Laboratory (from 2008 Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory) in Tsukuba city.
1987	CBL took over the Quality Housing Component Certification System from the MOC.
1988	The name of the foundation changed to 'Better Living'.
1989	Designated as a Performance Test Organization for sound insulation by the MOC.
1996	Establishment of the System Certification and Registration Center offering services for certification and registration of ISO9001, ISO14001 management system.
2000	Designated as a Performance Evaluation Body and Approval Body under the Building Standards Law by the MOC. Also Registered as a Housing Performance Evaluation Body under the Housing Quality Assurance Act by the MOC.
2002	Designated as a Confirmation and Inspection Body under the Building Standards Law by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT).
2007	Started Structural calculation review services under the Building Standards Law.
2008	Establishment of Sustainable Living Research Center.
2011	Changeover into a general incorporated foundation in accordance with the reform of the public-interest corporation system.
2015	Opening of the Nagoya Test Laboratory (Nagoya Lab) in Midori-ku, Nagoya city as a branch of the Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory.
2016	Opening of the Structural Safety Judgment Branch in Naka-ku, Nagoya city, which performs structural calculation review services.
2017	Registered with the MLIT as an 'Energy-saving review body and an 'Energy-saving evaluation body' under the Building Energy Efficiency Act.
2022	Opening of the Structural Safety Judgment Branch in Aoba-ku, Sendai city, which performs structural calculation review services.
2023	CBL had the 50th anniversary of its foundation, and a commemorative magazine was published.

## Headquarters

4, 6 and 7F Stage Building, 2-7-2 Fujimi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
102-0071 JAPAN

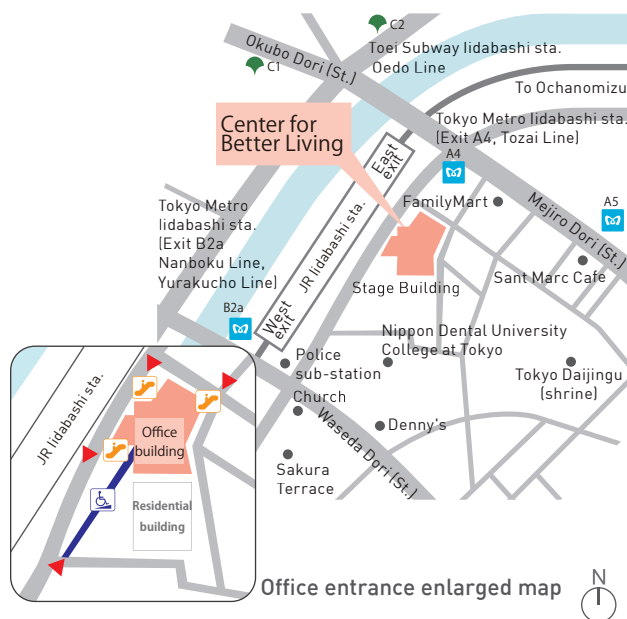
(Elevator hall is on the second floor. Please come to the office by elevator from the second floor.)

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By train: 3 min. from Iidabashi sta. (JR, Metro)

Housing Components and Related Businesses Development division (6F)	TEL +81 3-5211-0665
Housing and Building Evaluation Center (7F)	TEL +81 3-5211-0578
System Certification and Registration Center (4F)	TEL +81 3-5211-0608
Sustainable Living Research Center (4F)	TEL +81 3-5211-0585
Public Relations and Information Group (6F)	TEL +81 3-5211-1402
General, Financial Affairs and Planning Group (6F)	TEL +81 3-5211-0556



## Tsukuba Building Research and Testing Laboratory (TBTL)

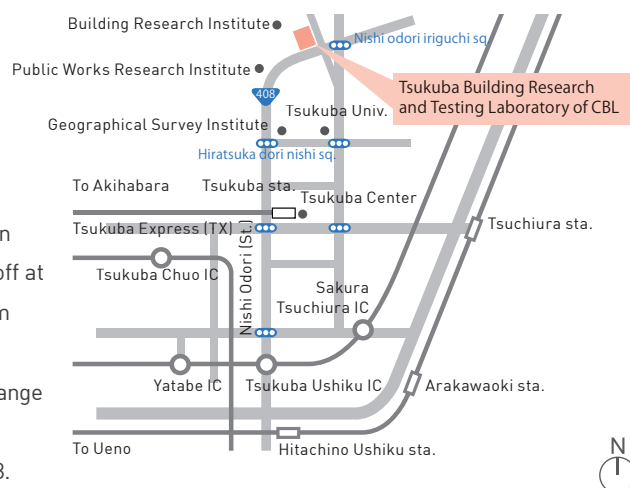
2, Tachihara, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-0802 JAPAN  
TEL +81 29-864-1745 FAX +81 29-864-2919



By train: Tsukuba Express (TX), Get off at Tsukuba sta. then take 'Tsuku bus' bound for Tsukubasanguchi (15 min.) and get off at 'Oohomadoguchi center', 10 min. on foot. Or 15 min. by taxi from Tsukuba sta.



By car: Joban Expressway; Approx. 15 km from Yatabe Interchange [I.C.] or Sakura-Tsuchiura I.C. bound for Gakuentoshi. Kenoh Expressway; Approx. 10 km from Tsukuba Chuo I.C. along route 408.

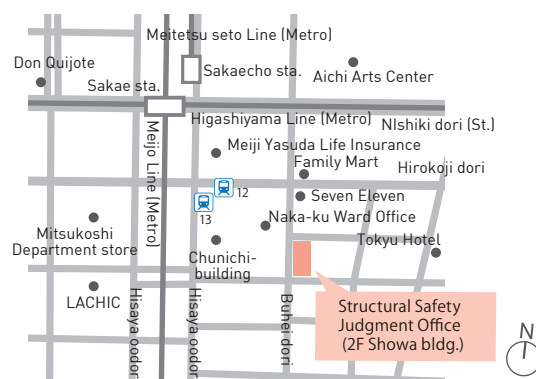


## Nagoya Structural Safety Judgment Office

2F Showa bldg. 4-3-26, Sakae, Naka-ku, Nagoya, Aichi, 460-0008 JAPAN  
TEL +81 52-212-9056 FAX +81 52-212-9057



By train: 5 min. from Sakae sta.  
(Subway Higashiyama line or Meijo line)



## Nagoya Test Laboratory (Nagoya Lab)

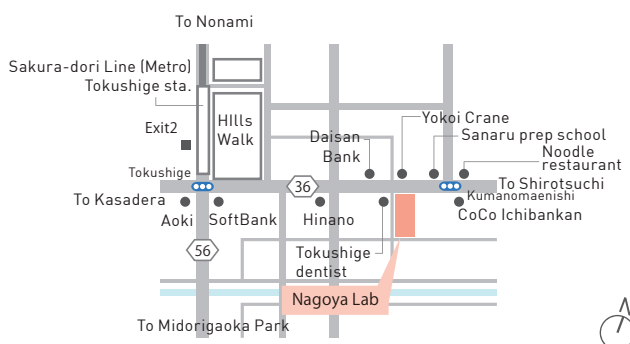
1-101, Kamegahora, Midori-ku, Nagoya, Aichi, 458-0804 JAPAN  
TEL +81 52-879-2151 FAX +81 52-879-2153



By train: 10 min. from Tokushige sta.  
(Subway Sakura-dori line)



By car: Nagoya-Daini-Kanjo Expressway: 1.5 km from Narumi Interchange (IC), turning left at Tokushige crossing on prefectural road 56.



Visit the website for details on the Center for Better Living

ベターリビング

検索