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Proposal of Regional-customized Operation Models for the Establishment of Local Construction Safety Centers

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SUMMARY

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After introducing local construction safety centers composed of experts to establish a professional management system for building safety in local governments, the quantitative expansion of local governments mandated to establish centers continued for their settlement. Initially, the establishment of local construction safety centers was a recommendation. However, in 2021, the obligation to establish centers was imposed on 17 metropolitan local governments and 24 common local governments with populations of 500,000 or more. From June 11, 2023, the obligation to establish centers was also imposed on common local governments within the top 30% regarding building permit area or proportion of old buildings. As a result, the number of local governments mandated to establish regional architectural safety centers increased significantly from 41 to 140.

Although local construction safety centers, which include professionals such as architects and structural engineers, were mandated to enhance the expertise of permit authorities and promote building safety, the implementation rate remains low. Moreover, even among the existing local governments mandated to establish centers, including metropolitan local governments and common local governments with populations of 500,000 or more, some centers struggled to fulfill their roles due to difficulties securing essential professional personnel. According to the Architectural Safety Division of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, only 36.5% of local governments had secured all essential professional personnel within their centers.

In response, Kim Min-ji et al. (2023) conducted field-based surveys and monitoring of local governments mandated to establish centers, proposing operational models based on the composition of professional personnel within centers and suggestions for institutional improvements. However, the operational models proposed by Kim Min-ji et al. (2023) were designed for metropolitan local governments and common local governments with populations of 500,000 or more, making them potentially difficult to apply for common local governments newly included in the mandatory establishment category as they establish or prepare to establish centers. This is because each local government has different anticipated workloads and current issues at their centers, and there are limitations to hiring two or more essential professional personnel to establish a center. Many local governments newly included in the mandatory establishment category have populations of less than 50,000, making it challenging to form organizations identical to existing centers.

Therefore, a customized center organizational structure model suitable for the conditions of these local governments is necessary. As the content and scope of center operations vary depending on the availability of essential professional personnel, it is necessary to present various center operational models in stages accordingly. This study, a follow—up to the aforementioned Kim Min—ji et al. (2023), aims to propose operational models and institutional improvement measures to expand the establishment of centers for local governments newly included in the mandatory establishment category for local construction safety centers. By analyzing and categorizing the current status of local governments mandated to establish local construction safety centers but have not yet done so, this study proposes type—specific and stage—specific operational models and institutional improvement measures suitable for local government conditions.

Keywords:

Local Construction Safety Center, Common Local Government, Operational Model, Consulting, Institutional Improvement Measures