

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: JA2020-0176

Report Name: Japan Develops a New Standard for Finger Jointed Lumber for Post and Beam Construction

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Wood Products

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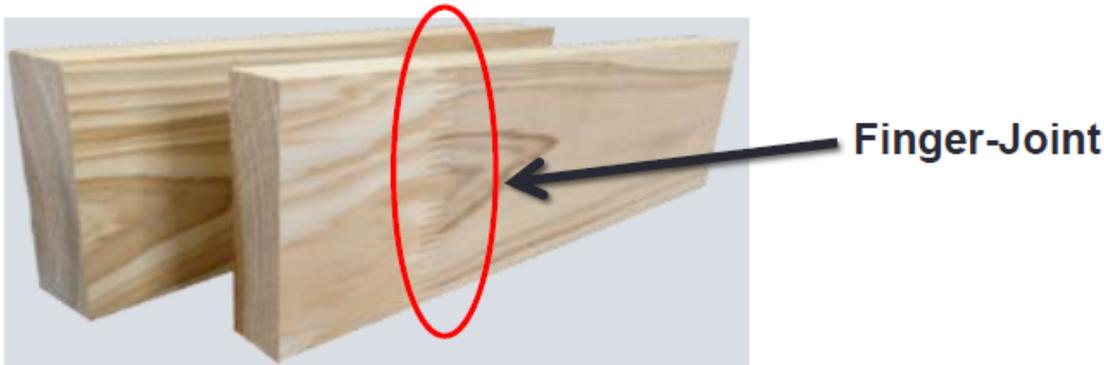
Approved By: Mariya Rakhovskaya

Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed a new Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) for "finger jointed lumber" used for studs, furring strips and reinforcement rafters for the post and beam construction method. The new standard will not apply to structural finger jointed lumber utilized in 2x4 construction. Comments are due to MAFF by November 13, 2020.

General

On October 15, 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) proposed a new [Japan Agricultural Standard \(JAS\)](#) for special [finger jointed lumber](#) (description available in Japanese only), an engineered wood product.



Sources: MAFF and Satsuma Fine Wood

[JAS 600](#) (description available in Japanese only) for Structural Lumber and Finger Jointed Structural Lumber for Wood Frame Construction (i.e., 2x4 construction method) already specifies the Japanese standard for finger jointed lumber for structural use. Japan's Building Standard Law (BSL) requires JAS grade stamps for structural dimension lumber for the 2x4 construction method¹. On the other hand, post and beam (P&B) wooden construction method relies on metric-sized lumber and does not require JAS or comparable certification ([JA2020-0087](#)).

The newly [proposed](#) JAS for finger jointed lumber will create a standard for reinforcement, rather than main structural (e.g., post and beam), members, such as stud (*ma-bashira*), furring strips (*dobuchi*), and rafter (*taruki*). The standard, developed specifically for the P&B construction method, uses metric, rather than North American, dimensional lumber size. MAFF anticipates that the new JAS for finger jointed lumber will standardize the quality of this particular type of finger jointed lumber. The standard may incentivize the use of JAS-certified wood products in P&B construction, where JAS products have a low market share.

As of October 2020, there are 11 JASs for wood products (sawn lumber, dimension lumber, glulam, cross-laminated lumber (CLT), LVL, structural panel (OSB), plywood, flooring, log, widthwise glued-laminated timber (glulam), and glued build-up timber). Each standard undergoes a mandatory review at least every five years. In addition to the proposed finger jointed lumber standard, MAFF is developing a new JAS for wood pellets.

¹ Since 1997, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) permits dimension lumber graded by members of associations certified by the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) or the Canadian Standards Accreditation Board to be used in Japan's 2x4 construction without an additional JAS grading stamp.

Following the 2017 amendment of the Act on JAS, MAFF aligned the JAS format with the International Organization for Standardization format to support Japan's agricultural and wood exports (see [JA2019-0195](#)).

Comment Submission

MAFF will accept public comments in Japanese on the proposed standard submitted by November 13, 2020 via [e-Gov](#), mail or fax:

- [e-Gov](#) – Click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit your comments.
- Mailing address is 〒100-8950 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
- Fax number is +81-(0)3-6744-0569
To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Food
Manufacture Division, Food Standards Office
Attn: Standards 2nd Team

Attachments:

No Attachments.