

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** October 15, 2024

**Report Number:** JA2024-0053

**Report Name:** Japan Has Proposed Organizations That Can Issue Certification Documents Under the Revised Clean Wood Act

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Wood Products

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 7, 2024, Japan's Forestry Agency proposed the list of organizations which the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries would like to designate as certifiers of information under the revised Clean Wood Act. The Forestry Agency has opened the public comment period until November 5, 2024.

The revised Clean Wood Act ([JA2023-0113](#)) will be fully enacted from April 1, 2025 ([JA2023-0135](#)). The Forestry Agency is currently developing the program details.

Business operators who initially place wood products in the domestic Japanese supply chain (e.g., wood products importers, domestic log wholesalers, etc.) need to collect the raw material information and check the legality of harvest (i.e., due diligence). The business operators who collected the raw material information are required to record and maintain the information. The business operators also need to record and maintain their reasoning why they believed the wood products had been legally harvested. They are also required to pass the information to their buyers.

The raw material information must include the species name and harvested area. Also, the raw material information needs to include 1) the copies of submitted documents according to the Forest Act for domestically harvested wood, 2) legal harvest certification of imported wood products by foreign federal governments, or 3) something equivalent.

The Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) already has determined what types of information can be considered “equivalent.” The Forestry Agency allows five different methods to prove the legality of the raw material of the imported wood products<sup>1</sup>, as [follows](#):

8) Information issued by the government agency or equivalents of the country which the wood products are exported or of the country of the origin of the raw materials of the wood products, proving that the wood products are made from legally harvested wood in compliance with the laws and regulations of the country of origin.

9) Information that the imported wood was legally harvested, and this information to be subsequently submitted to the government agency or equivalents, while in compliance with the laws and regulations of the country of origin.

10) For wood that has not been regulated under the laws of the country of origin, information which proves that the wood harvesters own the property rights of the logging area or the right to harvest.

11) Information provided by the government agency or equivalents of the country of origin to prove that the wood had been owned by the government or local governments or that the wood had been permissibly harvested from governmental or public lands.

12) Certified information showing the wood products are highly likely not from illegal harvests. The MAFF Minister or local governments designate the organizations that can provide the certified information and qualified for the revised Clean Wood Act.

On October 7, 2024, the Forestry Agency [proposed the list of organizations](#) which the MAFF Minister seeks to designate as certifiers of information of 12). The list includes six foreign organizations, including (no. 145) American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), (no. 146) Forest Stewardship Council A.C. (FSC), Green Gold Label foundation (GGL), (no. 148) PEFC Council (PEFC), (no. 149) Quebec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB), and (no. 150) Sustainable Biomass Program Limited (SBP).

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<sup>1</sup> 1)-7) were about domestically harvested wood, and thus they were excluded from this report.

**Comment Submission:**

Comments should be submitted in Japanese by November 5, 2024 (Japanese standard time) by mail or electronically:

- *Electronic submission:* Go to [e-Gov](#). After agreeing to the conditions, click “意見入力へ” to submit comments.
- *Mail comments:* 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 〒100-8952  
To: Forestry Agency, Forest Policy Planning Department, Wood Utilization Division, Legally Harvested Wood Products Utilization Promotion Team

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.