

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Proposes to Include Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Criteria for Government Procurement Decisions

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of the Environment opened public comment period on proposed revisions of the Basic Policy of the Green Procurement Act. One proposed change includes greater emphasis in government procurement decisions on the greenhouse gas emission value of goods and services. Comments must be submitted in Japanese by December 6, 2022.

General Information

In 2000, the Japanese Diet enacted “[the Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities](#)” (hereafter the Green Procurement Act). The Green Procurement Act directs the national government, independent administrative agencies, and special corporations under the national government to procure products and services that reduce the environmental impact of these goods and services. The Green Procurement Act also encourages local governments and other public entities to similarly procure “eco-friendly” products.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) oversees the implementation of the Green Procurement Act. In coordination with other ministries, MOE developed the Basic Policy of the Green Procurement Act to facilitate implementation. Every year, MOE reviews the Basic Policy, which includes the evaluation criteria for most of the key categories of goods and services procured. In the [2002 Basic Policy](#) (available in Japanese only), MOE specifies the evaluation criteria for 21 categories: 1) paper, 2) stationery, 3) office furniture (including wooden furniture), 4) imaging equipment, 5) computers, 6) office equipment, 7) mobile telephones, 8) home electronic appliances, 9) air conditioners, 10) water heaters, 11) lighting, 12) vehicles, 13) fire extinguishers, 14) uniforms and work clothes, 15) interior fixtures and bedding, 16) work gloves, 17) other textile products, 18) facilities, 19) stockpiles for disaster response, 20) public work projects (including building materials) and, 21) services (including transportation fuel) and 22) trash bags. For additional information about Green Public Procurement in Japan, please see [MOE's handbook](#).

For the 2023 Basic Policy of the Green Procurement Act, MOE [proposed consideration of associated emission levels in government's green procurement decisions](#). Specifically, the proposed Policy states¹ “From the perspective of promoting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction throughout the whole supply chain, quantitative environmental information on products would be based on actual values as much as possible, in accordance with the guidelines on carbon footprint calculation methods formulated by the government. These GHG values should be properly disclosed. Each organization is highly encouraged to make efforts to preferentially select products with low GHG emissions, starting from products for which quantitative environmental information has been calculated in accordance with the guidelines.”

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and MOE are in the process of developing a standardized method to calculate the carbon footprint (i.e., life cycle analysis of the entire supply chain) for goods and services. METI has posted documents (available only in [Japanese](#)) from the initial expert committee meetings.

¹ FAS/Tokyo’s provisional translation.

How to Submit Comments on MOE’s Basic Policy Proposal for the Green Purchasing Act:

MOE will accept comments in Japanese only through **December 6, 2022**. Comments can be submitted

(i) [electronically via e-Gov](#) (click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit), or (ii) by email to GPL@env.go.jp

(this submission does not allow for email attachments).

Legality and Sustainability Considerations in Government Procurement of Wood Products

Under the Green Procurement Act, Japanese importers of wood products need to verify legal sourcing of imported wood products and paper products in accordance with the Forestry Agency’s “[Guidelines for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products](#)”. Separately, the Clean Wood Act implemented by the Forestry Agency provides for a voluntary registration system, where registered companies commit to verifying the sourcing of their wood products (see [JA8002](#)). For detailed information about Japan’s import regulations and standards for wood products, please see [JA2019-0214](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.