

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Releases Draft 2021 Forest and Forestry Basic Plan

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

On April 26, 2021, Japan’s Forestry Agency released the draft of the new Forest and Forestry Basic Plan, which is due for revision in 2021. The plan aims to increase the domestic 2030 wood consumption to 42 million cubic meters log-equivalent, a 40 percent increase over 2019. Forestry Agency will accept public comments in Japanese on the draft Basic Plan and the draft National Forest Plan until May 14, 2021.

Background

The [Forest and Forestry Basic Act](#) directs Japan's Forestry Agency (FA) to update its Forest and Forestry Basic Plan (hereinafter "Basic Plan") every five years. FA published the [current Basic Plan](#) (available only in Japanese) in May 2016. On April 26, 2021, FA released the draft 2021 [Basic Plan](#) and the associated draft [National Forest Plan](#) for public comments.

FA will accept public comments **in Japanese** on the draft Basic Plan and revised National Forest Plan by May 14, 2021. Comments can be submitted:

- Electronically via [e-Gov](#) (Click “意見入力へ” to submit comments)
- By mail: Forestry Agency, Forest Policy Planning Department, Policy Planning Division, Forest and Forestry Basic Plan Development Office 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8952 Japan
- By fax: +81-(0)3-6744-0237

New Basic Plan

The draft Basic Plan encourages improvements to forest management to support Japan's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and sequestering an additional 27.8 million metric tons of CO₂-equivalent above 2030 in forest sinks by 2030 (see [JA2021-0068](#)). In addition to the Forest Management System (see [JA9098](#)), FA plans to expand the use of forest-harvesting machinery and promote reforestation through the planting of new varieties of fast-growing trees (see [JA2021-0048](#)).

To facilitate the competitiveness of Japanese wood products in the domestic construction market, the draft Basic Plan also aims to encourage collaboration across Japanese ministries to increase wood utilization in remodeling and construction of non-residential buildings (see [JA2020-0087](#) for FA's additional efforts to promote wood use). The draft Basic Plan specifically targets increased use of Japan Agriculture Standard (JAS) certified domestic kiln-dried lumber, engineered wood products and dimension lumber in the domestic construction market.

The new Basic Plan sets the total domestic log-equivalent consumption target for 2030 at 42 million cubic meters (m³), a 40 percent increase over the 31 million m³ consumption in 2019 (Table 1). In 2019, Japan's self-sufficiency rate for forest products was 38 percent. The draft 2021 Basic Plan aims to increase the self-sufficiency for forest products to 48 percent by 2030. With regard to lumber and glulam, the Basic Plan increases the domestic 2030 log-equivalent target by 46 percent compared to 2019. FA aims to raise lumber and glulam self-sufficiency rate to 63 percent in 2030, compared to 46 percent in 2019. On the other hand, given the growing demand for imported wood pellets for power generation, FA anticipates Japan's self-sufficiency rate for fuel wood to decline from 70 percent in 2019 to 56 percent in 2030.

Table 1. Japan’s 2019 and target wood supply in million m³ log-equivalents

	2019 Actual		2025 Target		2030 Target	
	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total
For Construction	18 (47%)	38	25 (63%)	40	26 (63%)	41
Lumber, Glulam	13 (46%)	28	17 (59%)	29	19 (63%)	30
Plywood	5 (50%)	10	7 (64%)	11	7 (63%)	11
For Non-Construction	13 (30%)	44	15 (32%)	47	16 (34%)	47
Pulp & Chip	5 (16%)	32	5 (17%)	30	5 (17%)	29
Fuel	7 (70%)	10	8 (53%)	15	9 (56%)	16
Other (e.g. exports)	2 (100%)	2	2 (100%)	2	2 (100%)	2
Total	31 (38%)	82	40 (46%)	87	42 (48%)	87

Source: [Forestry Agency](#)

Notes:

- The “Domestic” columns are wood products produced from trees harvested in Japan. The “Total” columns refer to Japan’s total supply of wood products in each category (row). The difference between “Domestic” and “Total” is imported wood products, including lumber manufactured in Japan from imported logs.
- To calculate log-equivalents for wood products, FA used the [Wood Products Supply and Demand Table](#) (available in Japanese only). For example, the conversion factors for softwood lumber is 0.637, hardwood lumber is 0.548, plywood is 0.618 and glulam is 0.600.

Attachments:

No Attachments.