

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Invites Comments on Proposed Biofuel Standards

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Biofuels

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) proposed an update to Japan's biofuel standards from Japan's fiscal year 2023 through 2027. METI will accept public comments in Japanese on the proposal until 5 PM on January 17, 2023, Japan time. Based on received public comments, METI will revise the contents in the proposed biofuel standards and open a second and final public comment period within a few weeks.

General Information

Japan's current transport biofuel target will expire on March 31, 2023 (see [Japan Biofuels Annual 2022](#) for details). On December 28, 2022, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) proposed an update to Japan's transport biofuel standards to go into effect from Japanese fiscal year (JFY, April-March) 2023 through JFY 2027. This policy update, known as Notification 3.0 under the Sophisticated Act (see [Japan Biofuels Annual 2022](#) for further information about the relevant laws and policies), has been under discussion over the last few months ([JA2022-0077](#)). Since September 2, 2022, METI held four expert committee meetings to develop the [proposed policy direction \(available in Japanese only\)](#) for Notification 3.0 and opened a public comment period for the proposal.

Highlights (page 8) of METI's [proposal](#) open for public comment:

- METI will maintain the annual target volume for transport biofuels at 500 million liters crude oil equivalent for JFY 2023-2027. Consumption of next generation bioethanol and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) will also count toward this target, as METI continues to monitor commercialization of these technologies.
 - METI aims to set an annual target volume for next generation bioethanol at 10 million liters crude oil equivalent from JFY 2028.
- METI will keep the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target at 55 percent relative to gasoline until METI updates the default carbon intensity value for gasoline. Following that update, which METI expects to take place in JFY 2023, METI will increase the GHG reduction target for transport biofuels to 60 percent of the gasoline GHG value.
- METI proposed the following updates (page 2) to the default carbon intensity values for bioethanol: 37.10 g-CO₂eq/MJ for U.S. corn-based ethanol and 28.56 g-CO₂eq/MJ for Brazilian sugarcane-based ethanol.

Comment Submission on the Proposal

METI will only accept comments submitted via [e-Gov](#) in Japanese by 5 PM on January 17, 2023 Japan standard time (click “意見提出フォームへ”).

METI will consider submitted comments in its development of draft Notification 3.0. After drafting Notification 3.0, METI will open a final round of public comments around January-February 2023.

METI's Schedule (page 9 of the [proposal](#)) prior to implementation of Notification 3.0

- Final expert committee meeting in late January to develop draft Notification 3.0 and incorporate public comments into the proposal.
- Final public comment period on the draft Notification 3.0 in February.
- Notification 3.0 goes into effect on April 1, 2023 (start of JFY 2023).

Attachments:

No Attachments.