

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** December 20,2019

**Report Number:** JA2019-0208

**Report Name:** Japan Invites Public Comments on LVL and Dimension Lumber Standards

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Wood Products

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 18, 2019, Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) invited public comment on revised Japan Agricultural Standards for laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and structural dimension lumber for wood frame construction. Public comments (in Japanese) are due to MAFF on January 16, 2020.

## General

The Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) contains 11 wood products standards<sup>1</sup>, which undergo mandatory review at least every five years. On December 18, 2019, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) invited public comment on proposed revisions to JAS for laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and structural dimension lumber for wood frame construction (i.e. dimension lumber).

The [proposed revisions](#) for [LVL JAS](#) include (i) lamina thickness specifications to expand LVL use, (ii) interval specifications for adhesives, and (iii) introduction of a simulation method to specify LVL design values. These revisions reflect North American standards for engineered wood products.

The [proposed revisions](#) for [dimension lumber JAS](#) (also known as JAS 600) include the addition of (i) new dimensions, (ii) machine stress rated (MSR) grades for bending strength, and (iii) standards for lumber with moisture levels of 15 percent or less.

In addition to these technical specifications, following the 2017 amendment of the Act on JAS, MAFF has aligned the format of JAS standards to the International Organization for Standardization format to support Japan's agricultural and wood exports (see [JA2019-0195](#)).

Public comments on the proposed JAS for LVL and dimension lumber are due to MAFF on January 16, 2020. MAFF will receive comments electronically, by mail or by fax:

- [Electronic submission via e-Gov](#) (Click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit comments):
  - [LVL](#)
  - [Dimension Lumber](#)
- [Mailing address](#): 100-8950 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
- [Fax](#): +81-(0)3-6744-0569; To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Food Manufacture Division, Food Standards Office, *Attn*: Standards 2<sup>nd</sup> Team

Prior to finalizing JAS revisions, MAFF will organize the JAS Expert Investigation Committee meeting on January 31, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Sawn lumber, dimension lumber, glulam, cross-laminated lumber (CLT), LVL, structural panel (OSB), plywood, flooring, log, widthwise glued timber, and glued build-up timber.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.