

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Opens Comment Period for Revised Glulam and Plywood Standards

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries invites public comments on revised Japan Agricultural Standards for glued laminated timber (glulam) and plywood through October 8, 2022. Comments must be submitted in Japanese.

General

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) establishes and maintains [Japanese Agricultural Standards](#) (JAS) for many agricultural and related products. JAS currently contains 12 wood products standards, which undergo mandatory review at least every five years. On September 9, 2022, MAFF invited public comments on proposed revisions to JAS for [glued laminated timber](#) (glulam) and [plywood](#).

The [proposed revisions for JAS glulam](#) (available in Japanese) include (i) allowing visual grade classification with surface measuring equipment, (ii) clarification of standards for recut processing, and (iii) addition of special dimensional tolerance and surface criteria. Moreover, the JAS proposal clarifies the performance criteria for machine-graded lamstock. In line with its approach to bending modulus of rupture and tensile strength, MAFF added both average and minimum values for bending modulus of elasticity (MOE)¹.

The [proposed revisions for JAS plywood](#) (available in Japanese) clarify how to measure delamination, establish lower grades for the board surface of general softwood plywood, and update requirements for the formaldehyde emission test.

In addition to these technical revisions, following the 2017 amendment of the Act on JAS ([JA2019-0195](#)), MAFF's new and revised JAS product standards conform to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) format for standards. Japan expects this alignment to facilitate Japan's exports of agricultural and forestry products.

How to submit comments

MAFF will accept comments on the proposed JAS for glulam and plywood through October 8, 2022. Comments can be submitted (i) electronically via e-Gov (click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit comments) for [glulam](#) and [plywood](#), or (ii) by mail (100-8950 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister's Secretariat, New Business and Food Industry Department, Food Manufacture Affairs Division, Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Office).

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ MOE measures the stiffness of the wood. In Japanese, bending MOE is also known as Young's modulus.