

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Japan Opens Public Comment Period for Revised Wood Product 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 proposed revisions of the Japan Agricultural Standards for cross laminated timber (CLT), sawn lumber (except dimension lumber), and flooring through July 2, 2024. Comments must be submitted in Japanese.

General

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) establishes and maintains the [Japanese Agricultural Standards](#) (JAS) for many agricultural and forestry products. JAS currently contains 13 wood products standards, which undergo mandatory review at least every five years. On June 3, 2024, MAFF invited public comments on the proposed revisions to JAS for cross laminated timber (CLT), sawn lumber (except dimension lumber), and flooring.

The [proposed partial revisions for JAS CLT](#) (available in Japanese) include changes in the standards for dimensional tolerances and addition of adjustment reagents in the formaldehyde emission test.

The [proposed partial revisions for JAS Flooring](#) (available in Japanese) clarifies the definition of single-layer flooring and adds adjustment reagents in the formaldehyde emission test.

MAFF [proposed major revisions for JAS Sawn Lumber](#) (available in Japanese). It is important to emphasize that JAS sawn lumber does not include dimension lumber for the North American-style wood frame construction method (i.e., 2x4 construction method) because there is a separate stand-alone [JAS 600](#) for dimension lumber.

In 2022, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) revised the [Building Energy Efficiency Act](#) and the [Building Standards Act](#). After the revised laws enter into effect in 2025, structural calculations will be extended for smaller buildings. Because JAS-graded lumber holds higher design values suitable for structural calculations, it is expected that more architects will adopt JAS-graded lumber. The purpose of the major revisions of the JAS sawn lumber is to meet the needs of users and to rationalize the product standards. With the enforcement of the revised Building Standards Act by MLIT, the [Forestry Agency expects](#) that the stable supply of JAS sawn lumber, which is guaranteed in terms of quality and performance, will promote the shift from imported wood products to domestic wood products. Since 2018, the [JAS Structural Wood Demonstration Support Project](#) has been underway. In 2023, the project provided 66,000 Japanese yen per cubic meter for applying machine stress rated (MSR) JAS sawn lumber via a budget program provided by the Forestry Agency. Please see [JA2020-0087](#) for further information.

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 further facilitate Japan's exports of agricultural and forestry products.

How to Submit Comments

MAFF will accept comments in Japanese only on the proposed JAS revisions through July 2, 2024. Comments can be submitted 1: electronically via e-Gov for [CLT](#), [sawn lumber](#) and [flooring](#) (click “意見入力へ” to submit comments), or 2: 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.