

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 09, 2021

**Report Number:** JA2021-0148

**Report Name:** Japan Proposes New JAS Standards for Wood Pellets for Non-Industrial Use

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Biofuels, Wood Products

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**Report Highlights:**

Japan opened the public comment for newly developed Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) for wood pellet fuel. Comments are due to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by December 9, 2021.

## General Information

On November 9, 2021, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) [proposed new Japanese Agricultural Standards \(JAS\) for wood pellet fuel](#) (in Japanese only). The newly developed standards are based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) wood pellet standard ([ISO 17225-2](#)) published in 2014. The proposed JAS standards would only apply to non-industrial uses (e.g., residential stoves, commercial boilers) of wood pellets manufactured from “unutilized wood from forests, plantations and others,” “by-products and residues from the wood processing industry,” and “chemically untreated reclaimed lumber.” Torrefied wood pellets are outside of the scope of Japan's proposed standards.

MAFF aims to classify wood pellets for non-industrial use into three grades based on technical specifications and the origin of their raw materials (Table 1). Grade A1 wood pellets are made from mill residues and stem wood, which contains low ash and nitrogen content. Grade A2 wood pellets contain slightly higher ash and nitrogen levels than Grade A1 and are manufactured from mill residues, logging residues and whole trees without roots. Grade B wood pellets are produced from various sources, including bark, thinning residues, pruning, reclaimed lumber and others.

**Table 1. Key Specifications of Wood Pellet Grades Within Proposed JAS Standards**

Grade	A1	A2	B
Source	Stem Wood Mill Residues	Whole Trees w/o Roots Logging Residues Mill Residues	Unutilized Wood Mill Residues Reclaimed Lumber
Ash	≤0.7%	≤1.2%	≤2.0%
Nitrogen	≤0.3%	≤0.5%	≤1.0%
Durability	≥97.5%		≥96.5%
Diameter	6±1mm or 8±1mm		
Length	3.15mm-40mm		
Moisture	10% or less		
Bulk Density	600 kg/m <sup>3</sup> or higher		
Heating Value	16.5 MJ/kg or higher		

Notes: MJ=megajoules

## Comment Submission:

[Comments should be submitted](#) in Japanese no later than December 8, 2021 (Japanese Standard Time) by mail or through the e-Gov website.

- *Mail comments to* 〒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, Standards 2nd Team

- *Electronic comments:* Go to [e-Gov](#). After agreeing to the conditions, click “意見入力へ” to submit comments.

## **Japanese Wood Pellet Market**

In 2020, Japan produced 149,000 metric tons (MT) of wood pellets. Japanese domestic wood pellet production relies on small producers in mountainous regions and targets residential wood stoves in Japan's northern regions and commercial boilers.

Japan's feed-in-tariff payments are driving the increase in wood pellet imports to Japan to supply new large-scale biomass power plants. Yet, wood pellets for industrial use are outside of the scope of the newly proposed JAS for wood pellets. In 2020, Japan imported 2.02 million MT of wood pellets, of which 58 percent came from Vietnam and 29 percent came from Canada. According to industry contacts, Japanese biomass power plants typically specify Grade “i2” wood pellets based on the ISO 17225-2 in their contracts. For details about Japan's utilization of biomass for energy generation, please see [Japan Biofuels Annual](#).

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.