On April 20, 2018, Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) invited public comments on revised Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) for sawn lumber and Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), as well as new JAS standards for Widthwise Glued Timber and Glued Build-Up Timber. Comments are due by May 19, 2018.

Keywords: JA8028, Engineered Wood Products (EWP)
**General Information:**

On April 20, 2018, Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) invited public comments on revisions to Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) standards for sawn lumber (MAFF notification No.1083 announced on March 29, 2007; last revised on August 30, 2016) and JAS standards for Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) (MAFF notification No. 3079 announced on December 20, 2013; last revised on June 12, 2013). MAFF also invited public comments on proposed new JAS standards for two new engineered wood products (EWPs) - Widthwise Glued Timber and Glued Build-Up Timber. MAFF is accepting public comments until May 19, 2018.

MAFF is revising the format of JAS standards to follow International Organization for Standardization (ISO) format. MAFF proposes the revision of JAS standards for sawn lumber, changing the dimensional tolerances and bending requirements for machine-graded structural lumber to meet the higher performance requirements of architects, builders and pre-cut factories.

MAFF proposes the revision of JAS standards for CLT bending and shear performance requirements based on new research results. MAFF is also proposing the use of eased-edged lam stock for CLT.

As shown in Figure 1, Glued Build-Up Timber is made from glued structural lumber, such as square (e.g., 105 mm x 105 mm) or hirakaku (e.g., 105 mm x 240 mm). Glued Build-Up Timber’s expected use is similar to conventional glulam beams. Widthwise Glued Timber is made from multiple vertically glued boards and is mainly used for log-house construction. These two engineered wood products are newly developed by the Japanese private sector, and are trying to make MAFF to develop standards under the new JAS system effectuated on June 23, 2017. Japan’s structural performance standards for Widthwise Glued Timber includes only Japanese cedar (sugi) and Japanese cypress (hinoki), and the standards for Glued Build-Up Timber only includes sugi, hinoki and Japanese larch.

![Figure 1. Glulam and New Engineered Wood Products](image)

**Submitting comments:** Comments should be submitted in Japanese no later than May 19, 2018, by
mail, fax, or electronically at the e-Gov website for each product.

e-Gov websites:
1) Sawn Lumber
2) Cross Laminate Timber
3) Widthwise Glued Timber
4) Glued Build-Up Timber
   Click “意見提出フォームへ” to submit your comments.

Mail comments to:
〒100-8950 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Food
    Manufacture Division, Food Standards Office
   Attn: Standards 2nd Team

FAX comments to:
+81-(0)3-6744-0569
To: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Food
    Manufacture Division, Food Standards Office
   Attn: Standards 2nd Team

The Japan Agricultural Standard
The JAS system was established by “The Law Concerning Standardization, etc. of Agricultural and
Forestry Products” (Law No.175, 1950; in Japanese) for food and forest products to test and approve
products for compliance with minimum expectations for Japanese consumers. JAS currently contains
nine forest products standards which are required to be revised every five years, or less. MAFF
modified JAS standards for glued laminated timber (glulam), plywood, and laminated veneer lumber
(LVL) on October 20, 2017. (Read JA7131 for more detail.)

JAS-certified products may display a label under a voluntary certification scheme. Although the use of
products with JAS labels is required (or strongly encouraged) by other laws or codes in the Japanese
market, little is used as there are no incentives to use JAS-certified sawn lumber in post and beam
construction. However, MAFF hopes to provide supports for residential houses made from JAS-
certified lumber.