

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan Invites Public Comments on Lumber Standards

Report Categories:

Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

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 (EWPs)

General Information:

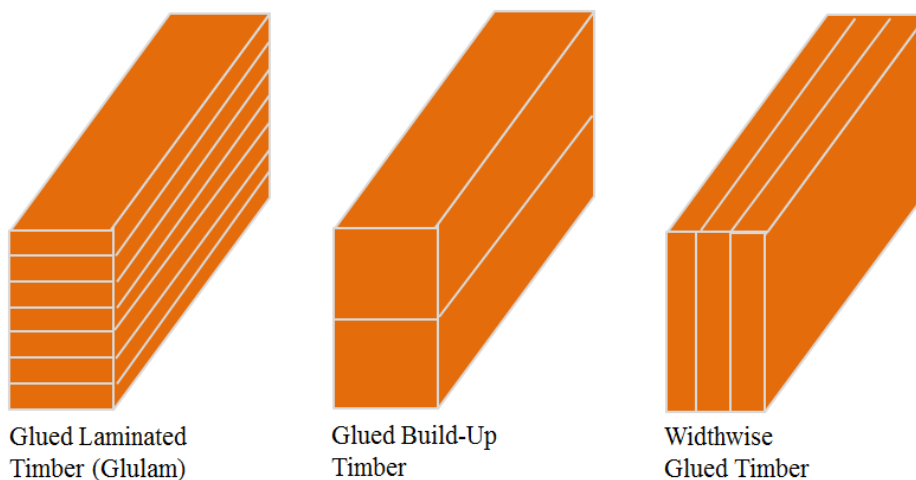
On April 20, 2018, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) invited public comments on revisions to [Japan Agricultural Standard \(JAS\)](#) standards for [sawn lumber \(MAFF notification No.1083\)](#) announced on March 29, 2007; last revised on August 30, 2016) and JAS standards 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



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.