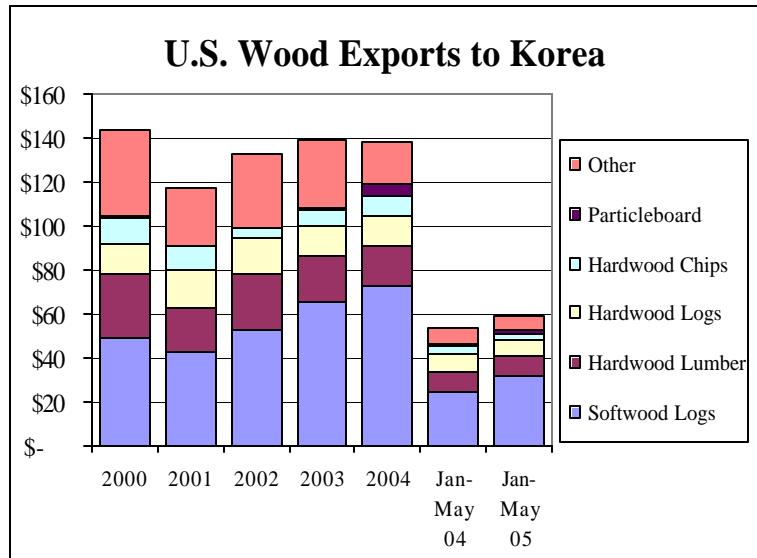


## Korean Government Increases Wood-Frame Construction Heights

In July 2005, the Korean Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) published amendment KSF 1611-1 in the Korean National Building Code (KNBC), permitting multi-family wood-frame construction in buildings up to five stories tall and up to 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space. This change is expected to generate \$5 to \$10 million in additional U.S. wood product exports to Korea. For buildings constructed with sprinklers, permissible floor space increases to 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The amendment recognizes wood assemblies of this size as fire resistant. Previously, the KNBC had limited wood-frame construction to two stories and did not allow any multi-story, multi-family wood-frame construction.

The American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) has worked closely with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the U.S. Trade Representative's office since 1991 to have this standard incorporated into the KNBC. Now, wood can be used to construct apartments, which comprise approximately 90 percent of the Korean housing market. In anticipation of the amendment, AF&PA conducted a number of seminars to help builders understand the new codes. As a result, several builders and developers are preparing to construct multi-story, multi-family wood houses. In 2004, the United States exported \$138 million of wood products to Korea.



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