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Japan

Solid Wood Products

Japan Accepting Comments on Changes to Procurement Law that Will Affect Forest Products

2006

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Report Highlights:

Japan is now accepting comments on proposed changes to the Green Purchasing Law, which will require Japanese Government offices to procure sustainable and legally logged forest products. The public has until January 31st, 2006 to comment.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

On January 10, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries announced proposed changes to the Green Purchasing Law. These changes primarily aim to ensure government agencies only use legal sustainable forest products, including logs, lumber, stationary, and paper. The proposed changes insert new language requiring that forest products have been sourced in compliance with the laws of the timber growing country and that the products have been harvested from forests that were managed in a sustainable way. Acceptable methods of proving legality and sustainability are given in guidelines provided by the Forestry Agency. These guidelines stipulate three basic methods, including 1) certification methods based on forest certification (FSC, SFI, etc.) and chain-of-custody certification 2) certification by companies approved by forestry and wood industry organizations, and 3) certification methods based on independent measures by individual companies.

For a detailed description of the proposed changes, or to discuss comments you would like to submit, please contact Ladd Mc Daniel of the American Forest and Paper Association at ladd@americanwood.jp as soon as possible.