



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 1/11/2006

GAIN Report Number: JA6001

Japan

Solid Wood Products

Public Comments Solicited by Japan on JAS Lumber Standard

2006

Approved by:

Rachel Nelson
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Rachel Nelson

Report Highlights:

Japan announced the public comment period for the following changes to the standards for JAS lumber. These changes include combining the 7 existing categories into 1 single lumber group and also deleting the use of creosote oil and CCA.

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

On December 22, 2005 the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) announced the start of the public comment period on its proposed changes to the JAS lumber standard. All comments are due January 31, 2006.

A Japanese version of the MAFF announcement can be found on the internet at:
http://www.maff.go.jp/www/public/cont/20051222pb_1.html

The changes have already been discussed in working groups, which held their last meeting October 2005. The main decision made in the group is to combine the seven separate lumber categories into one.

The current 7 categories are:

- 1) Structural softwood sawn lumber
- 2) Nonstructural softwood lumber for interior use/finishing carpentry
- 3) Softwood sheathing
- 4) Hardwood sawn lumber
- 5) Balk lumber
- 6) Cants/lumber with wane
- 7) Railway ties

These will now be combined into one group.

Other changes include:

- New species to be added to durability category 1 (highly durable species) for both softwood and hardwood (This is related to preservative treatments)
- New chemical allowed as preservative
- Deletion of CCA and creosote oil from the standard
- Elimination of equivalent test method option.
- Change of criteria

The public comment also announced amendment of the JAS standard used for 2x4 wood frame construction. The amendment is related to the change of preservatives that are specified in the draft of the new lumber standard.

Interested parties have until January 31st to submit comments. There will be an explanatory meeting January 18th in Japan to discuss these changes. To submit comments or if you are interested in attending the explanatory meeting, please contact Yuichi Hayashi at hayashi@softwood.org as soon as possible, but well before the deadline.