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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan Modifies Forest Products Standards

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

On October 20, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced modifications to Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) for glued laminated timber (glulam), plywood and laminated veneer lumber (LVL). The revised JAS standards for plywood and LVL will enter into force on November 19, 2017, and revised JAS standards for glulam will enter into force on January 18, 2018.

Keywords: JA7131, Forest Products

General Information:

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-certified products may display a label under a voluntary certification scheme. However, using products with JAS labels are required (or strongly encouraged) by other laws or code in the Japanese market.

JAS contains [nine forest products standards](#) (in Japanese) which are required to be revised every five years or less. MAFF announced modified JAS standards for glulam, LVL, and plywood on October 20, 2017. The following table provides the modification and implementation dates for the nine forest products standards covered by JAS.

Product	Date Modified	Date Established
Glued Laminated Timber (Glulam)	Oct 20, 2017	Sep 25, 2007
Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL)	Oct 20, 2017	May 13, 2008
Plywood	Oct 20, 2017	Feb 27, 2003
Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)	Aug 30, 2016	Dec 20, 2013
Logs	Aug 30, 2016	Aug 21, 2007
2x4 Dimension Lumber	Mar 9, 2015	Jul 8, 1974
Structural Panel (i.e., Oriented Strand Board [OSB])	Nov 28, 2013	Mar 27, 1987
Flooring	Nov 28, 2013	Nov 13, 1974
Lumber	Jun 12, 2013	Aug 29, 2007

The Food and Agricultural Materials Inspection Center (FAMIC) took the lead for the review and Draft Preparation Committee meetings were held between August 2014 and October 2016. There were seven meetings for glulam, three meetings for plywood, and two meetings for LVL. Both U.S. and Canadian representatives participated as committee members. The draft versions of the revised JAS for glulam, LVL and plywood were released for public comment on June 2, 2017. The public comment period closed on July 1, 2017. The JAS Council, a committee of 15 members from industrial organizations, consumer groups and academia, then approved the revisions on July 6, 2017. Announced October 20, 2017, the revised JAS standards for plywood [[MAFF notification No.1578](#)] (in Japanese) and LVL [[MAFF notification No.1580](#)] (in Japanese) will enter into force on November 19, 2017, and the revised JAS standard for glulam [[MAFF notification No.1579](#)] (in Japanese) will enter into force on January 18, 2018.

The major points of the revisions are:

- The addition of standards for the preservation (i.e., treated lumber) of LVL, plywood, and glulam
- The reduction of finger joint lengths required for glulam
- The addition of a center-point bending test method (Bending Test B) for machine-graded glulam lamina
- Permits the use of discolored lamina for glulam that satisfies required strength values
- Decreased thickness of glulam decorative veneer wrap from 1.5mm+ to 0.6mm+

- Decreased the number of lamina required for decorative structural glulam from five (or more) to four.