



European
Commission



Wood products in construction materials

Product requirements in Japan
under the EU-Japan EPA



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1. Tariffs

- For more detailed information on tariff rates please refer to [My Trade Assistant](#)

2. Regulations Related to Importation

2.1 Regulations in Connection with Import Plant Quarantine

At the time of exporting, in principle, there are no special regulations focused on either sawn wood in general or wood products in construction materials. Wood with bark and logs are subject to plant quarantine. In addition, certain species of wood are subject to other regulations. Please refer to the following websites:

- Plant Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF): [English Website of Plant Protection Station](#) (English)
- Plant Protection Station, MAFF: [Contact Points](#) (Japanese)
- Plant Protection Station, MAFF: [Database for Import Conditions in Japan](#) (English)
 - Database for searching import conditions. Regarding item 2 “Select part” in “Selection of plant,” there is a category for “timber.”

Please note the following points:

1. Certain species of wood such as rosewood are prohibited from being imported and exported or are regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Please refer to the following website for information on CITES and the required procedures:
 - Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI): [The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) (English)
 - The EU has created its own regulations for exporting wild fauna and flora. EU Commission: [The European Union and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora](#).
 2. Wood of trees in the walnut family (Juglandaceae) require a special phytosanitary certificate. Please check Q24 of the [FAQ](#) (Japanese) and/or contact the Plant Protection Station.
- Plant Protection Station: [Import and Export Plant Quarantine](#) - FAQ (English). From this website, the following materials can be obtained:
 - Outline of import plant quarantine and related regulations
 - Incoming Plants FAQ (Q52 to Q54 are questions regarding wood logs)

The main regulations are available on the following website:

- Plant Protection Act (Act No. 151 of 1950/Amended subject to Act No. 102 of 2005) ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.
- MAFF: [Standards for import plant quarantine](#) (Japanese)

2.2 Regulations under the Clean Wood Act

- Forestry Agency: [About the Clean Wood Act](#) (English)
 - Under the Clean Wood Act, importers of wood and wood products in Japan are required to check whether they were legally harvested. In relation to this requirement, exporters to Japan need to submit to importers certain documents such as documents proving that the logs or trees used as raw materials for the wood and wood products were harvested in compliance with the laws and regulations of the countries of origin. For detailed information, please check: [The Guide to the Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-Harvested Wood and Wood Products](#) (English)
 - The EU has created its own timber regulation. It is one of the regulations providing rules of origin. EU Commission: [Timber Regulation](#)
- EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Facility: [A comparison of the Japanese Clean Wood Act and the EU Timber Regulation](#) (13 October 2017) (English)

The main regulations are available from the following websites:

- [Act on Promoting the Distribution and Use of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products](#) (English and Japanese)
- Regulations for Enforcement of the Act on Promoting the Distribution and Use of Legally Harvested Wood and Wood Products ([English](#) and [Japanese](#))
 - The English translation at the above link is outdated. The latest text is available only in Japanese.

2.3 Other Regulations

- [Order for Enforcement of the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc.](#) (English and Japanese)
 - If certain kinds of wood antiseptics, insecticides, and fungicides are used for wood or wood products, those products are prohibited from being imported into Japan under Article 7 of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances

and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc. Regarding the general information about required procedures under the Act, please refer to the following website:

- METI: [CSCL \(Chemical Substances Control Law\)](#) (English)

3. Regulations Related to Construction

3.1 Regulations Related to the Building Standards Act

In Japan, the Building Standards Act regulates construction materials in general. In particular, regulations on sick house issues (i.e., a medical condition where people in a building suffer from symptoms of illness or feel unwell because of chemical substances contained in or emitted from construction materials, etc.) directly relate to wood for construction materials.

Specifically, in Japan, construction materials on which chlorpyrifos is applied are prohibited from being used. Also, formaldehyde-emitting building materials are subject to a prohibition or restriction on use. For distribution in or importation into Japan, ministerial approval is required, provided that an exemption from the required ministerial approval applies through obtainment of appropriate Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) or Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) certification. Before applying for approval, performance evaluation by a designated performance evaluation organization is required.

- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT): [The amended Building Standard Law on Sick House Issues](#) (English). Basic instructions on the regulations regarding sick house issues are explained. The following website and PDF files are linked from the above website.
 - [III Basic Technical Criteria for Countermeasures Regarding Sick House Issues](#) (English). Detailed information about the list of materials subject to the above control, the method of obtaining approval, exemptions from the requirement of approval and restrictions on use are described in the PDF file.
 - [Applications for Recognition of Overseas Performance Evaluation Organizations and Overseas Approval Organizations](#) (English)
 - [Lists of Recognized Performance Evaluation Organizations and Designated Performance Evaluation Organizations Engaged in the Performance Evaluation of Formaldehyde-emitting Building Materials](#) (English)
- MLIT: [Measures on Sick House Issues under the Building Standards Act](#) (for Building Material Distributors and Importers) (Japanese)
- [Building Standards Act](#) (Japanese)
- [Order for Enforcement of the Building Standards Act](#) (Japanese)

3.2 Optional Labelling Systems in Japan

At the time of sales in Japan, manufacturers certified by registered certification bodies can display the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)'s mark on products that have passed inspection. Certain forestry products such as logs, sawn lumber, glued laminated timber and structural lumber for wood frame construction can be certified with the JAS mark. The Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) also provides the JIS mark. Forestry products such as wood-plastic recycled composite can be certified with the JIS mark.

- MAFF: [Japanese Agricultural Standard](#) (English). The following websites and PDF files are linked from the above website:
 - [List of JAS products](#) (English)
 - [Import of products with JAS marks](#) (English). Procedures for obtaining certification of foreign manufactured products are explained in the PDF file available on the above website.
 - [Flows of Imported Products with JAS Marks](#) (English)
 - [List of Registered Certifying Bodies \(domestic and overseas\)](#) (August 2019) (English)
 - [Outline of required formalities for application as Registered Overseas Certifying Body \(ROCB\) under the revised JAS law](#)
- JISC: [Site Map](#) (English). The following websites and PDF files are linked from the above website:
 - JISC: [Coverage of JIS](#) (English)
 - JISC: [Flowchart of JIS development](#) (English)

The following institutions also provide optional (non-binding) certification systems and guidelines in Japan. Several institutions, such as the Japan Housing and Wood Technology Center and Japan Lumber Inspection and Research Association, provide several kinds of certification systems such as certification of approved quality (AQ). The Japan Building Coating Materials Association provides guidelines for voluntary labelling of formaldehyde-emitting building materials.

- Japan Housing and Wood Technology Center: [Certification Based on Laws and Optional \(Non-Binding\) Certification Based on the Center's Own Standards](#) (Japanese)
- Japan Lumber Inspection & Research Association: [General Information](#) (Japanese)
- Japan Building Coating Materials Association: [Explanation of Voluntary Labelling of Formaldehyde-Emitting Building Materials Systems](#) (Japanese)
 - [Guidelines for Voluntary Labelling of Formaldehyde-Emitting Building Materials](#) (Japanese)