

International Symposium on Legality Verified Wood 2010
Part Two Report: Activities in Japan to Tackle Illegal Logging Issues

Presenter Information

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Title	Managing Director
Career summary	<p>1977 Entered Shizuoka Prefectural Federation of Lumber Co-operative Association</p> <p>1979 Seconded to Shizuoka Prefecture Indonesia Corp. as director</p> <p>1984 Returned to Shizuoka Prefectural Federation of Lumber Co-operative Association as planning section chief</p> <p>2001 Appointed as advisor</p> <p>2009 Appointed as managing director</p>

Report Outline

Title: Promoting a Joint Government-Wood Producers Certification System
<p>Report Summary</p> <p>1. Coordinated Administration of Certificates of Origin and Goho-wood Certification</p> <p>In Shizuoka Prefecture, while cooperating with government policies to promote local production for local consumption, we are advancing efforts toward constructing a system for the legal and cyclical use of forest resources in the wood industry through joint administration of the Shizuoka Prefecture wood products certification system*¹ established by Shizuoka Prefecture in FY2002 and the goho-wood supplier certification system established by the Shizuoka Prefectural Federation of Lumber Co-operative Association (hereafter, “Prefectural Lumber Federation”) in FY2006 based on the Forestry Agency guidelines.</p> <p>Concrete measures for goho-wood were launched in FY2006. Shizuoka Prefecture changed its basic policy on the procurement of prefectural environmental products, and the prefecture, the Prefectural forestry federation, the Prefectural Lumber Federation and individual lumber cooperative associations are jointly administering the group certification system.</p> <p>Based on consideration of the supply conditions for goho-wood, Shizuoka Prefecture made certificates of origin and goho-wood certification requirements for wood used in its public works and in the subsidy program for housing using local materials*² as part of the prefecture’s procurement policy from FY2010, following trial implementation in FY2009.</p> <p>From 2010, certificates of origin were also made requirements in assistance programs for housing using local materials independently established by the City of Shizuoka, Hamamatsu</p>

City, and other local cities and towns. So certification systems have rapidly spread in the domestic lumber field.

Meanwhile, the supply of legality verified imported wood is also beginning to gain momentum, with the addition of a category for local resources use (the provision of additional subsidies for houses using at least 50 percent legality verified wood in the building frame) under the Long-term Superior Housing Promotion Project implemented by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism from FY2010.

2. Strict Management Using Outside Inspectors

To make the group certification system for smaller suppliers more reliable, the Prefectural Lumber Federation accepts certification applications, with membership as a requirement to become a certified supplier, at our individual member associations. The Prefectural Lumber Federation is working toward strengthening the cooperative structure, while boosting industry solidarity.

To those ends, the Prefectural Lumber Federation has sought outside experts for all our certifying inspectors, right from the establishment of the goho-wood system. We are working to secure the reliability and transparency of the system through (1) strict certification inspection committees, (2) practical training sessions for the managers of certified suppliers, (3) site inspections of certified suppliers and (4) tracing inspections on public works projects. And to spread the certification system and publicize goho-wood we hold (5) system explanation meetings for designers and contractors and (6) housing exhibitions and goho-wood fairs for the general public.

Separate operations inspections and periodic inspections are also implemented on public works ordered by the prefecture for the certificate of origin system for prefectural wood, which is administered in coordination with the goho-wood certification system. The credibility of the system for certifying wood produced in the prefecture is rising further.

3. Administrative Issues and Future Direction

The issues regarding the various certification bodies have become apparent from the actual state of certification of suppliers in the prefecture. Specifically, because various bodies exist that certify goho-wood suppliers, the certification bodies must accept applications using suitable judgment criteria, such as (1) by administrative territory (national and prefectural), and (2) by industry or business category (industry organizations and the Prefectural Lumber Federation); disclose related information and otherwise recognize their respective responsibilities and roles; and seek a division of duties accordingly.

Preferential policies to support the use of certified forest (FSC) lumber in public works projects ordered by the major cities of the prefecture began from FY2010, and wood industry members in the cities' surrounding areas are now considering applying for FSC certification (CoC group certification) in addition to group certification, which verifies legality.

Considering these trends, the Prefectural Lumber Federation aims to clarify the contribution to resolving environmental problems through the correct operation of the certification system, and to link this to strengthening solidarity in the wood industry through smooth system administration while gaining consumer understanding.

The position of legality verified wood has become clear as the act to promote the use of wood in public buildings came into effect from this autumn. The Prefectural Lumber Federation will take advantage of this opportunity to redouble our efforts toward ensuring the transparency and credibility of our group certification system, which has now entered its fifth year.

*1. Shizuoka Prefecture wood products certification system (in Japanese)

(<http://www.s-mokuren.com/seido.html>).

*2. Shizuoka superior wood materials housing support project (in Japanese)

(<http://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/sangyou/sa-380/index.html>).