

New Government Procurement Policy of Japan for Global Sustainable Forest Management

- Introductory explanation for wood and wood products company overseas -

Summary

- Wood and Wood Products for government procurement needs to be confirmed to have '*legality*' of harvesting on the timber of which they are composed, and '*sustainability*' of the management level of the forest from which they originated are favorably taken into account.

- In this policy, 'legality' is positioned as 'Evaluation Criteria' and 'sustainability' as 'Factors for Consideration'.

Objective items - five categories

- Paper (Printing Paper, etc.)
- Stationary (Business envelopes, Notebooks, etc.)
- Office Furniture (Chairs, Desks, Shelves, etc.)
- Interior Fixtures and Beddings (Bed frames)
- Public-Works projects (Lumber, Glued laminated timber, Plywood, Laminated veneer lumber, etc.)

Types of documents maybe requested

- Primarily, contractor of government procurement is responsible for the verification on the legality and sustainability of wood and wood products.

- So underlying documents for this verification may be requested to *company overseas* by Japan side such as wood importing company.

- Documents accountable for legality and sustainability at exporting stage would vary as legal system and commercial customs of each country differ, and examples of them are as follows.
 - i . Forest Certification (SGEC, FSC, SFI, CSA, PEFC, etc.)
 - ii . Official documents issued by authorities concerned or industry associations (permission on harvesting, exporting, etc.)
 - iii . Other documents with the same level of reliability as i or ii .

Date of Enforcement

- 1 April 2006 in effect.
"Basic Policy" of "Law on Promoting Purchasing Eco-friendly Goods and Services (Green Purchasing Law)" was amended by cabinet decision.

- Verification on legality of timber of which contract on harvesting were concluded before 1 April 2006 could be substituted for the description on the fact as interim measure.

Assessment and review in the future

- This policy is the first step which intends to secure minimum level of legality and sustainability, and necessary amendment will be added as occasion demands.