

(Wood suppliers' side)

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Organization name	Hokkaido Federation of Wood Industry Cooperative Associations

1. Brief introduction of the organization

(1) Establishment

September 1950 (A federation of cooperative associations based on the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Cooperatives Act)

(2) Purpose of the association

To implement joint projects necessary for its members, to promote its members' economic activities and to help improve their economic status

(3) Organization of the association

The members of the association include cooperative associations comprising operators in the forest, wood products manufacturing industries, and building materials retailers, as well as supporting members who intend to cooperate with the association's operations.

No. of members: 44 cooperative associations, 132 supporting members

(4) Major projects

Projects related to bolstering demand for wood which are implemented for its members

Information provision and dissemination of knowledge related to management and technological improvement of its members' business

Projects related to surveys and research conducted for business of its members, etc.

2. Outline and dissemination of "goho (legal)-wood" activities

(1) Pursuant to the Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products announced by the Forestry Agency of Japan, the association established its "Code of Conduct" and "Procedure to Authorize Member Companies," and initiated authorization from August 2006.

(2) The association has so far authorized 441 business operators, including loggers, sawmillers, wood processors, and wood distributors.

Type	Members of cooperative associations and supporting members	Non-members	Total
No. of operators authorized at the end of March 2012	263	178	441

(3) The volume of legally verified wood supplied by the association's authorized member companies in FY2011 was approximately 400,000 m³ (78% of their total shipment)

(4) Dissemination and public relations activities

[Dissemination]

- Sent posters and brochures to and asked municipalities throughout Hokkaido to take measures against illegal logging and to promote dissemination and raise public awareness among citizens.
- Implemented dissemination and public relations activities by distributing brochures for general consumers at such opportunities as events related to forest owners, forestry or the wood industry.

[Public relations activities]

- Introduced its efforts in measures against illegal logging on the association's website, which also includes the Code of Conduct for measures against illegal logging, Procedure to Authorize Member Companies, and names of authorized member companies

Dissemination and public relations activities at events



3. Activities to secure credibility

(1) Monitoring (on-site inspection)

- Visit 100 selected business operators every year, and confirm the status of separation of *goho*-wood from other wood and the management of reports & forms

(Survey items) • Record of buying and shipment of *goho*-wood

- Method to confirm purchased *goho*-wood on-the-spot
- Confirmation of preserved documents on the verification of legality
- Status of separation and management *Goho*-wood from other wood
- The status of requesting the verification of the legality of wood and wood products from the consignee

[Example of separation and management] Separation and management through indication with a marker

(Logs)



(Sawn wood)



(2) Training Seminar

- The Training Seminar for *Goho*-wood Suppliers is held annually in two blocks, with a total of six blocks having been held, in Hokkaido.

Year	2010	2011	2012
No. of trainees	72	108	141
Training venues	Sapporo & Hakodate Cities	Obihiro & Kushiro Cities	Asahikawa & Kitami Cities

4. Evaluation from demand side

- With an increasing number of national governmental and other subsidy programs making mandatory the use of *goho*-wood for the construction of institutional buildings and houses, there is a year-on-year growing demand for the use of *goho*-wood on the wood supplier side.
- Although recognition of *goho*-wood among general consumers is still quite low, inquiries about *goho*-wood have been increasing recently from architect offices and builders.

5. Problems to be solved

(1) Requests for the government

- Expand the subsidy system for the construction of wooden public facilities using *goho*-wood
- Provide special tax treatment and eco-points for houses built by using *goho*-wood

(2) Requests regarding imported wood

- The establishment of a mechanism by each country to monitor their wood for export, in order not export illegally logged wood from the countries.
- Since the verification method for illegally logged wood varies according the country, it is often difficult to confirm the method in each case. Therefore, if there is any labeling method that would help them to identify the item as *goho*-wood at a glance, it would be a great help.

(3) Issues in securing credibility

- To enhance and maintain credibility of the system, it is necessary to increase the level of monitoring of authorized member companies by respective authorizing bodies.