

(Wood suppliers' side)

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Organization name	Japan Lumber Importers' Association (JLIA)

### **1. Brief introduction of the organization**

- Established: April 1950, 63 years since its establishment. Voluntary membership association.
- Purpose of establishment: To contribute toward the healthy development of the industry by conducting business necessary to promote the import of timber through mutual close cooperation among import companies.
- Scope of business: Collection and analysis of statistics on timber imports and their demand/supply; information/opinion exchanges with domestic and overseas timber industry associations; and opinion proposals to government and industry.
- Membership: 54 general trading houses, timber-specific trading companies, timber wholesalers, wood processors, etc. Among these, 40-members conduct timber import every month. Total import volume by member companies is almost 10 million m<sup>3</sup> (FY2011). This accounts for almost 60% of imported wood or wood products to Japan (including logs, sawn timber , laminated lumber , veneer, plywood, fiberboards, and particle boards).

### **2. Outline and dissemination of "Goho-wood" activities**

- 2004–2005: Survey on documents related to the shipment of imported wood and its actual distribution, and a report to the Forestry Agency.  
2006: Established JLIA "Group authorization system" based on guidelines by the Forestry Agency related to the governmental procurements.  
2010: Submitted a request letter to overseas wood industry associations asking for extra supply of Goho-wood (including CoC certified timber)  
Most members conducting actual timber import are already registered as JLIA authorized – suppliers.
- Most of JLIA members also obtained Forest and CoC certifications to conduct chain of procurement, supply and guarantee of Goho-wood (refer to table below). Among those with CoC certification, 29 members obtained FSC and 31 members obtained PEFC, with 25 members obtaining both certifications. The quantity imported by JLIA members having CoC certification accounts for more than 90% of the total imported volume by all members.

Transition of members obtaining CoC certification (Japan Lumber Importers' Association:

	2006 and before	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
<b>FSC:</b>	4	11	14	19	25	28	29	(Currently 29 companies)
<b>PEFC:</b>	7	10	11	18	23	29	31	(Currently 31 companies)

- Goho-wood trade records (Target period: April 2011 to March 2012. Based on the report from members) Of the total import quantity of wood and wood products of 9,883,000 m<sup>3</sup>, 4,881,000 m<sup>3</sup> (49%) was verified to be Goho-wood; of this, 1,383,000 m<sup>3</sup> was delivered to the domestic market as Goho-wood.

(Item)	(Total imports)	(Goho-wood imports)	(Goho-wood supply)
Log	2,807,000 m <sup>3</sup>	1,686,000 m <sup>3</sup> (60%)	754,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Sawn timber	3,163,000 m <sup>3</sup>	421,000 m <sup>3</sup> (13%)	149,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Plywood	2,585,000 m <sup>3</sup>	2,266,000 m <sup>3</sup> (88%)	273,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Others	1,328,000 m <sup>3</sup>	508,000 m <sup>3</sup> (38%)	206,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9,883,000 m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4,881,000 m<sup>3</sup> (49%)</b>	<b>1,383,000 m<sup>3</sup></b>

### 3. Activities to secure credibility

- Providing regular training seminars:  
At the time of first authorization and its renewal every 3 years, we will visit respective member companies to conduct training seminars for responsible managers and persons in charge. In addition, we intend to conduct additional trainings (2 times every 3 years) at the midterm of the authorized period (3 years).
- Conducting monitoring:  
Monitoring is also conducted at the same time the above training seminars are held. We examine member activities such as document filing conditions, description of management documents, confirmation of procurement/supply results of Goho-wood, and examination of improvement points.
- To receive the trainings and monitoring, most of members have already obtained various certifications including FSC-CoC, FSC-CW and PEFC-COC, and deeply understand the separate custody management and document control. Accordingly, in the training seminar we focus on enhancing understanding and active utilization of the certification method by utilizing the “Group authorization system,” which Japan uses to supply and spread Goho-wood.
- The names of responsible persons from JLIA authorized suppliers and their training history are

posted on the website “Goho-wood Navi” and occasionally revised.

- Visiting training seminars conducted so far:

2007: 41 members 191 persons

2009: 43 members 168 persons

2010: 31 members 123 persons

2012: 38 members 108 persons



#### **4. Evaluation from the demand side**

- Since many domestic processors dedicate themselves to supplying Goho-wood, they often request Goho-wood certification on the imported logs for raw materials. Whereas, in most of the imported sawn timber for the distribution industry, the need for Goho-wood from wholesalers, etc. has been relatively low.
- In the recent two years, the need for Goho-wood has increased because homebuilders are supporting the trend of environmentally conscious products, and Goho-wood certification is mentioned in the wood utilization promotion policy. JLIA aims to actively prepare and voluntarily supply Goho-wood regardless of distributor or consumer demands.
- Along with these changes in the current situation, overseas suppliers are starting to actively supply Goho-wood to Japan. Also, the number of overseas suppliers obtaining CoC certification has increased over the past two years.
- Although the distribution industry, or demand side, has less capability to obtain CoC certification, the need for Goho-wood including CoC certification will likely increase in the future. This is because CoC-certified timber supplied by overseas suppliers and importers (JLIA member companies, etc.) can provide a chain of Goho-wood guarantee by using the association authorization system.

#### **5. Problems to be solved**

- Although the situation is changing as noted above, the ratio of Goho-wood certification

especially to imported softwood sawn timber is still low, remaining as a problem needing improvement. The possible causes for this are: first, the verification method of a legality other than Forest or CoC certification has not been clarified in many countries; and second, timber having the Forest or CoC certification is not actively supplied as an CoC certified timber.

- Although overseas suppliers and importers (JLIA members, etc.) are registering CoC certifications by paying grate costs, it is not too nice that many are not effectively utilized. We are expecting early improvement of this situation, including establishment of a system that can verify the legality at overseas by some other means in addition to the Forest and CoC certifications.