

Japan's Clean Wood Law - The current status -

Mari MOMII

momii@deepgreenconsulting.jp

New Law

“The Law Concerning Promotion of the Distribution and Use of Legally Logged Wood, etc.”

- Implementation since May 2017
- Competent Authorities – MAFF (wood), METI (furniture), MLIT (construction)
- FA



Key Points

- Objective: Promotion of legal timber
- No prohibition, no penalty for trading in illegal timber
- Wide scope of products and “operators”
- Voluntary DD
- Voluntary registration system (incentive)
- Some enforcement measures
- Various projects to facilitate the implementation

Scope of Products

	Timber	Furniture	Others	Pulp	Paper
Clean Wood Law 2016	Round logs Veneer Pellets Chips/small pieces	Those specified in GPL for domestic use	Siding board	Wood-pulp	Toilet paper Tissue paper
PPP (“Green Purchase Law”) 2006	Sawn timber Laminated lumber Timber from thinning operations Plywood LVL	Office chair, desk and shelve Office fixtures Low partition Coat hunger Umbrella stand Sign board and blackboard Bedframe	Flooring Wood-based cement board		Photocopy paper Form paper Printing paper Printing paper for inkjet colour printer

Scope of Operators

Almost everyone...! (Art. 2)

Type 1	Type 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importers • Lumber markets • Sawmills, processing factories, wood chip factories (that purchase raw logs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other processing factories (e.g. laminated lumber factories, pre-cut factories) • Distributors • Manufacturers of final products (e.g. housing manufacturers, furniture makers)

'Effort Obligations'

Type 1	Type 2
<p>DD check on all products</p> <p>Registration as an entity</p>	<p>DD check within the scope set by individual entities</p> <p>Partial registration allowed (e.g. department or product level)</p>

Registration

- Starts this autumn
- The Government issued guidance for registration bodies regarding: qualification, fee, forms
- 7 or 8 entities interested
- ISO/IEC capabilities or equivalent
- Desk-based assessment & renewal + on-spot check
- Registration fee to be set individually
- Who would register?

Enforcement

- Non-approval, withdrawal, cancellation and elimination of registration (Art. 11, 13, 14)
- Guidance and advice by competent ministers (Art. 7)
- Reporting and inspection for businesses and registration bodies (Art. 33)

Penalty

- Penalties for operators
 - less than 2800 USD fine for the misuse of “registered operator”
 - less than 1890 USD fine for non-compliance regarding reporting and inspection measures
- Penalties for registration bodies (e.g. 1 year imprisonment & less than 4600 USD fine for violating suspension order)

“Clean Wood NAVI”

- Created by Forestry Agency
- Management commissioned to Japan Federation of Wood Industry Association

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Clean Wood NAVI website. At the top left is the logo '林野庁' (Forestry Agency). To its right are navigation links for 'English', 'キッズサイト' (Kids Site), 'サイトマップ' (Site Map), and '文字サイズ' (Text Size). Further right are buttons for '標準' (Standard) and '大きく' (Large). Below this is a search bar with two options: '逆引き事典から探す' (Search from the reverse dictionary) and 'キーワードから探す' (Search by keyword), followed by a 'Google カスタム検索' (Google Custom Search) input field and a '検索' (Search) button. A horizontal menu contains five green buttons: '林野庁について' (About Forestry Agency), 'お知らせ' (Notice), '政策について' (About Policy), '申請・お問い合わせ' (Application/Inquiry), and '国有林野情報' (State Forest Information). Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: 'ホーム > 分野別情報 > 合法伐採木材等に関する情報提供'. The main content area features a light green banner with the text '合法伐採木材等に関する情報提供「クリーンウッド・ナビ」' (Information provision on legal logging wood etc. 'Clean Wood NAVI').

“Clean Wood NAVI”

- Basic information (Law, rules, registration)
- Country-specific information
 - Domestic
 - China
 - Indonesia, Malaysia (3 regions), PNG, Solomon Islands, Vietnam
 - Russia
 - Chile
 - USA, Canada,
 - EU

Projects under CWL

- Research on Malaysia, Vietnam and Chile (2015, Japan Lumber Inspection & Research Association)
- Strengthening Anti-Illegal Logging Measures (2016, JFWIA & IGES) : China & surveys on Goho-Wood
- Research on consumer countries (USA, Australia and EU) (2017, Biomass Association)
- Promotion of Anti-Illegal Logging Measures (2017, JFWIA): Seminars etc. to facilitate registration
- Developing and managing Clean Wood NAVI (2017, JFWIA)
- Research on producer countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and Peru) (2017, Japan Forest Technology Association)

Challenges

- “Unconfirmed timber”
- DD rules and standards still to be laid down
- The legality definition still rather unclear
- Confusion as to how the FA’s Legality Guideline is treated (mixed info)
- Mixed reactions by the industries
- Large corporations will probably register but SMEs?
- NGOs critical
- Adds little to the existing Goho Wood system unless implemented well
- Enforcement only on “good companies”

Legality Definition

- “wood derived from trees logged in compliance with laws and regulations of Japan or the country of origin”

(Art. 2)

- Would this include laws not relating to logging? Such as tariff?
- “Information to be checked” under DD - distribution, forest sustainability, trade and others (Art. 2)

Thank you!