

Japan Wood Products Agreement (1990)

[letterhead]

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 15, 1990

Dear Ambassador Hills:

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Japan has decided to take measures to achieve substantial improvement in market access for wood products in Japan. These measures are set forth in the Attachment to this letter. In some instances, the implementation of these measures will require Diet approval.

With the implementation of the measures outlined in the Attachment, it is the intent of our Government that the opportunities for the importation and use of wood products in Japan will be facilitated and improved. Moreover, these measures will be implemented in a manner that allows for the practical and economic construction of wood buildings.

In addition, as described in the Attachment, my Government has decided to establish a process to examine the possibilities for further modification of the rules and regulations governing wood construction, while maintaining high levels of safety, with the aim of expanding the use of wood products in Japan.

We look forward to working with your Government to identify products for which harmonization of standards would facilitate the trade and use of forest products in the future, in order to ensure that product standard issues are handled in such a manner as to facilitate trade in the future.

We also look forward to working with you in the Wood Products Subcommittee and the technical committees that will be established, as described in the Attachment, to oversee the implementation of these measures and to seek to resolve any disputes that may arise.

Sincerely yours,

[signature]

Ryohei Murata

Ambassador of Japan

The Honorable Carla A. Hills

United States Trade Representatives

Office of the U.S.T.R.

Washington, D.C. 20506

[letterhead]

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Executive Office of the President

Washington, D.C. 20506 g

JUN 15 1990 M stamp d dat]

His Exc ll ncy Ryoh i ata

Ambassado
Ma

Embassy of Japan

2520 ssach s tts Av n , NW.

Washington, D.C. 20008

Dæ Ambassador ata:

I am pl as d to c iv yo l tt of today's dat conc ning th meas s that th Gov nment of Japan has d cid d to tak in o d to achi v s stantial imp ov ment in ma k t acc ss fo wood p od cts in Japan. I wdcome yo Gov nment's commitment to tak th s meas s, as d tail d in th Attachment to yo l tt .

We welcome th meas s that yo Gov nment has d cid d to tak to inc as th oppo t niti s fo wood const ction in Japan and yo ass anc s that th meas s will impl ment d in s ch a way as to allow fo th p actical and conomic const ction of wood ildings. We li v that th s meas s will of mut al n fit to o two co nt i s.

We also wdcome Japan's sta lishment of a p oc ss that will p ovid th asis fo f th modification of th l s and g lations gov ning wood const ction, whil maintaining high l v ls of saf ty, with th aim of xpanding th s of wood p od cts in Japan.

We app ciat yo Gov nment's d cision to tak a positiv stanc in th U g ay Ro nd Ta iff N gotiations on wood p od cts and look fo wa d to achi ving majo s lts in that fo m.

We will wo k clos ly with yo Gov nment to id ntify p od cts fo which ha monization of standa ds wo ld facilitat th t ad and s of fo st p od cts in th f t and to ns that p od ct standa d iss s a handl d in s ch a mann as to facilitat t ad .

We also look fo wa d to wo king with yo in th Wood P od cts S committ and th t chnical committ s that will sta lish d, as d sc i d in th Attachment, to ov s th impl mentation of th s meas s and to s k to solv any disp t that may a is . We will advis yo of th s l ction of o p lic and pivat s cto M p s ntativ s fo th s committ s in th n a f t .

Sinc ly,

signat]

ME

Ca la A. Hills

ME

ME

ASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERN NT OF JAPAN RELATING TO WOOD PRODUCTS (ASURES)

I. TARIFFS

1. Th Gov nment of Japan (GOJ) has d cid d to tak a positiv stanc in th U g ay Ro nd N gotiations with sp ct to th d ction, o as app op iat , llimination of ta iffs on th wood P od cts sp cifi d in Ann x A, which is attach d h to.

2. Following commitments mad in th U g ay Ro nd d-T m R vi w of Ap il 1989, and witho t p j dic to th asic n gotiating methods d sc i d in that commitment, th GOJ:

a. Will tak n c ssa y meas s, incl ding s king Di t app oval, to d c ov all ta iff at s on th wood p od cts sp cifi d in Ann x A f om c nt appli d at s y a ta g t amo nt at l ast as ambitio s as that achi v d y th fo mula pa ticipants in th Tokyo Ro nd as pa t of th impl mentation of th s lts of th U g ay Ro nd N gotiations; M

b. Recognize the importance, as added by the Uruguay Round Mid-Term Review of April 1999, of reducing overall import tariff peaks, and tariff escalation, and hereby of the view has:

() The implementation of Uruguay Round Negotiations should ultimately result in the achievement of low tariffs on the wood products specified in Annex A, and

(2) The overall reduction in high tariffs (rate 8 percent and above) on the products specified in Annex A will be greater than the equivalent reduction in order to achieve a more balanced improvement in market access.

c. In order to work closely with the United States Government (USG) and other interested parties on tariff issues, the Uruguay Round negotiations with the USG and other interested parties as part of the Uruguay Round Negotiations at the level of agreement of tariff reduction on wood products specified in Annex A accordance with the above guidelines.

II. BUILDING STANDARDS

A. Definition: for purpose of the "Measure to Be Taken by the Government of Japan Relating to Wood Products" (Measure), the term "building standard" means the Building Standards Law, as well as relevant cabinet order, enforcement regulation and ordinance. The legal requirements under the Building Standards Law are complemented by the definitions to allow the practical and effective implementation of the measure to be taken under Part II and Annex B of the Measure.

B. Performance Requirement

1. In the policy of the GOJ has, principle, building standard and requirements should be performance-based and has, where the performance of wood products or wooden building systems equivalent to has stipulated by the standard and requirements, hereto should be permitted.

2. Where only precriptive building standards are stipulated, the GOJ will add performance-based standards on the maximum extent possible. In particular, the GOJ will endeavor to reduce on building standards new engineering method for acceptance of wood frame door as well as new structural calculation method for wood frame construction, as detailed in Annex B, which attached hereto. The new standard will be put into effect from July 1990 for frame door and by the end of Fiscal Year 1991 for new structural calculation method for wood frame construction.

3. The GOJ will continue and strengthen the program, directed by the Ministry of Construction (MOC), of research and development to expand the use of wood products and modern building systems construction. On the basis of current data and information available on and accordance with new technical development, the GOJ will amend promptly building standards and requirements so as to permit the use of proven wood products and safe building systems.

4. The effectiveness should be implemented or contemplated as well as the objectives are outlined in Annex B.

5. With the objective of promoting the use of proven wood products and safe building systems, and of exchanging views and technical information on building standards, the GOJ will establish, cooperate with the USG and/or other interested countries, a Building Expert Committee, including representatives of the public sector and private technical experts of Japan, the United States and/or other interested countries. The Committee will hold free meetings as possible from 1990.

6. With a view toward further improving information about the building standards, rules and regulations and providing a sound basis for the deliberation of the Building Expert Committee, the GOJ providing the information outlined in Annex F, which attached hereto.

C. Expedited Recognition of New Products and Building Systems The Building Standards and Expedited Incorporation of JAS and JIS Standards on the Building Standards 1

1. It is the policy of the GOJ that the recognition of new products and systems and the incorporation of agricultural products, mining and agricultural standards (JAS) and Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) into the building standards should be done in accordance with the standards, transference and redistribution. In accordance with the "Action Program for Improvement of Market Access" formulated in July 1985, the Japanese government is raising safety and workability standards of new products and systems recognized in the building standards within a three-month period, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The GOJ will seek to incorporate agricultural products, mining and JAS and JIS standards into the building standards within a six-month period.

2. For important data which is not available, consistent with the GATT Agreement, the Japanese government is considering the recognition of new products and systems. In this regard, the GOJ draws attention to the 1987 "Guidelines on the Assessment of Overseas Inspection Data."

3. The GOJ will further take the actions specified in Annex C, which is attached hereto, concerning the incorporation of JAS and JIS standards into the building standards.

D. Other and Export Certification

1. The GOJ is of the view that, in general, certification, registration and evaluation of new building materials and systems, is desirable and that certification, rather than evaluation of products or systems, is preferable. In this regard, the Japanese government is encouraging firms, including foreign firms, to establish a system of certification for products and systems. The Japanese government is also encouraging firms to establish a system of certification for products and systems.

2. The GOJ is of the view that the standards should be established by the standards committee and data provided by the standards committee should be used for certification of products and systems, and certification of products and systems should be based on the standards committee's findings. The Japanese government is also encouraging firms to establish a system of certification for products and systems. The Japanese government is also encouraging firms to establish a system of certification for products and systems.

3. The GOJ has made efforts to streamline its procedures for evaluation and in this regard draws attention to the 1987 "Guidelines on the Assessment of Overseas Inspection Data" and related work in the agricultural and forestry sectors. The GOJ is also working in this regard that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, such a review is sufficient for a national basis.

4. The GOJ will make further efforts to determine the evaluation and certification by taking the actions specified in Annex D, which is attached hereto, and, consistent with its commitments to the improvement of information services, bring the standards and regulatory information into the evaluation system for foreign companies to request.

E. Implementation

1. The GOJ will take the necessary and appropriate actions to ensure that the implementation of the actions of the GOJ set forth in this Part, as well as in Annexes B, C and D of the Measures.

2. The GOJ will cooperate with the USG and/or the interested parties to discuss and resolve matters related to the recognition, incorporation, evaluation and certification of new products or building systems as quickly as possible and in accordance with the Measures. It is anticipated that discussions will be held within three months unless it is sufficient data from the parties concerned.

3. The GOJ will inform building officials, agricultural officials and the appropriate officials, as well as the construction industry, in an effective and timely manner of the changes in the building standards and the requirements set forth in the Measures.

III. JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

The GOJ will take the following measures with respect to the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS).

A. Simplification of Certification Process

1. In order to simplify and expedite the JAS certification process, the GOJ will initiate, reduce and simplify the documentation required for JAS certification. Through the action described in Annex E, which attached hereto, with respect to the documentation for the certification of all products including plywood, the GOJ will initiate the following, except in the case of the following:

a. The documentation required for JAS certification will be reduced by approximately one-half, and the period for the GOJ to conduct an on-site inspection and review and approve the application will be shortened to four months for applications submitted directly to the Regional Office (RGO) (only two or three months will be required in cases in which no problem is encountered).

b. When the Forestry Office (FTO) is made, the period, referred to in paragraph (a) above, will be no more than two working weeks.

c. For the approval of new plans, the period for the GOJ to conduct an on-site inspection and review and approve the application will be shortened to four months, except when the FTO is made the period will be no more than two weeks, and in cases where no problem is encountered, the period will be shortened to two or three months.

2. In the certification of all products produced other than plywood, the GOJ will take action similar to the described in Paragraph (1) above, as well as the described in the documentation required in the Annex E with respect to plywood.

3. Under the FTO is made, the provision of quality control facilities, equipment and personnel is the responsibility of the FTO, and not of the applicant. However, a quality control contract between the FTO and the applicant is allowed. In the JAS certification, an applicant will not be required to provide documentation with respect to the quality control requirements.

B. Adoption and Revision of JAS Standard

1. The GOJ will revise the JAS standard:

a. to include the alternative method of the National Standard and incorporation of value in the plywood panel standard; and

b. to conform with the Machinery Regulation (MSR) and the value for lumber including for use in the manufacture of laminated lumber products.

2. In revision of the standard in Paragraph (1) above, the GOJ

will:

a. acknowledge and utilize the extensive experience and technology available in the United States and other countries on the maximum extent possible; and

b. take the maximum use of the data on OSB value and the value for MSR lumber provided by U.S. and/or other sources.

3. Based upon recognition of the practicality of the MSR lumber value of the proposed, the GOJ, after a period of and rendering a judgment on the quality control provisions of the MSR regulation or annex on the United States and other countries, will accept the principle of the proposed value referred to in Paragraph (2)(b) above.

4. For technical experience will continue to participate in the development of JAS standard. For the data will continue to be utilized when appropriate, consistent with the guidelines established by the GOJ in "Improvement of Japanese Standard and Certification System."

5. The preparation of the final draft of the revised standard, referred to in Paragraph (1) above and the necessary domestic procedures, including the action of the Research Council for Agricultural and Forestry Standard, will be completed by March 31, 1991 and the revised standard will be published by July 1, 1991. g

C. Equivocal Testing

1. It is the view of the GOJ that, wherever the methodology is different from those set forth in the JST standards, for integrity of the methodology is provided through proper testing program.
2. The GOJ will judge the quality of the methodology on the basis of its analysis of performance and test data provided through proper testing program.
3. Upon receipt of request by Foreign Testing Organization, which intends to seek approval of proper testing program, the GOJ will, in more than 60 days, expediently respond, notify the applicant of the parameters of the testing program that will be required (e.g., the duration of the testing) and other necessary data that must be submitted with the application. When this data has been submitted, on other information will be required of the applicant.
4. Within six months of submission of the necessary test data, the Research Committee for Grievances and Forfeiture Standards will make judgment that the foreign testing method provides equivalent results. It is possible but within 30 working days, further Research Committee has made affirmativequivally judgment, the GOJ will make official proclamation to the K NPO of the point, on provision basis, of the foreign testing methodology.
5. Thirty (30) days further thequivally judgment is published to the K NPO, and prior to GATT notification, the GOJ will begin to put the foreign test results as equivalent to JST test results. The test results will fulfill the JST requirements, in accordance with relevant standards and regulations in Japan.
6. It is understood that the result of the GATT notification process, the GOJ may be required to take its provision point of the foreign testing method.

D. JST High Committee

1. The GOJ, in cooperation with the USG and/or other interested countries, will establish JST High Committee, composed of representatives of the government and organizations participating in the JST system, and it is deemed necessary, private sector, high experts for the purpose of assisting the government.
2. The initiative of the Committee will be held by July 30, 1990, and approximately one year further, with more frequent meetings held when necessary.
3. The purposes of the Committee will be to:
 - a. hold regular meetings to exchange views and provide guidance of JST product standards and the product standards of other countries and other issues may be regarded up;
 - b. identify products where harmonization of standards would facilitate trade in forest products;
 - i. examine and make recommendations with respect to the harmonization of standards, in particular with respect to the future development of common standards and testing methodologies;
 - d. prepare reports on progress in implementation of the tasks set forth in the B of this Part and Annex E.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF LAMINATED WOOD PRODUCTS

1. This Part of the Measures set forth the position and classification of the GOJ regarding the appropriate classification of laminated wood products, including, but not limited to, glued laminated (glulam) members, solid members; laminated posts; laminated veneer lumber (LVL); laminated veneer joists and trusses; and glued and grooved glued laminated lumber. Where such laminated wood products meet the criteria set forth below, the GOJ has decided to classify these products under Harmonized Tariff Schedule Subheading 4418.90 (3.9 percent duty), Annex of July 1, 1990.

2. The GO hereby intends to clarify the following minimum wood product under Harmonize Tariff Schedule subheading 4408.90 (3.9 percent duty), of volume, 990.

. Glue-laminated

() Structural / glue-laminated lumber that has a minimum ratio of width of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in depth (multiple of the lamination thickness) of not less than 5 1/2 inches (140 mm) in thickness fulfilling any one of the conditions

described below at the time of importation:

(i) produced (curved, member, tenon, mortise) to be particularly shaped for beams or joists; 1

(ii) has bolt holes in proper location;

(iii) planed or sanded, finished; or

(iv) with vertical lamination thickness of not less than 30 mm.

(2) Glue-laminated lumber that has a ratio of width of less than 3 inches (76 mm) in depth of less than 5 1/2 inches (140 mm) or a ratio greater than or equal to that size, but which does not fulfill any of the four conditions set forth in sub-paragraph () above, is classified as structural glue-laminated lumber when the shipment is comprised by the following materials 2/ or hardware 3/ showing that the product is intended to be used for structural application 4/ in the construction of any kind of building, etc. without significant further processing 5/.

b. Laminated Veneer Lumber

Structural laminated veneer lumber (LVL) which fulfills any one of the conditions described below at the time of importation:

() is a product (e.g., beams or joists, combination beams with steel product, etc.);

(2) product in the form of recognizable unembled piece (e.g., prepared with tenon, mortise, dovetail or similar joint for assembly);

(3) piece produced to particularly shaped (e.g., curved, member) for beams or joists; or

(4) product having a ratio of width (or thickness which is a multiple of the thickness of the lamination) of not less than 3 1/2 inches (89 mm) in depth of not less than 3 1/2 inches (89 mm) in thickness comprised by the following materials 2/ or hardware 3/ showing that it is intended to be used for structural application 4/ in the construction of any kind of building, etc. without significant further processing 5/.

. Tongue and Groove Glue-laminated Lumber

Tongue and groove glue-laminated lumber (often called "eking") which has a width of not less than 5 1/4 inches (133 mm) in depth (multiple of the lamination thickness) of not less than 2-3/8 inches (56 mm), is eligible for use in flooring, roofing, etc., and is not recognizable as glue-laminated when embled as a unit in finished form. Nevertheless, eking prepared with end-joint, such as tenon or mortise, for assembly is classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading 4408.90 (3.9 percent duty).

/ The term "structural" used herein is intended only to be descriptive and shall not imply the need to meet requirements in addition to those specified herein.

2/1 The term "materials" in lumbering or terms, terms, specifications or similar technical manual, in addition to the construction.

3/ The term "hardware" in lumbering, metal plate or bracket which is appropriate in size and quality for the product involved. 1

4/ The term "technical application in lamination, arched, pointed, header, parallel, and other member, which are used in the main frame of any building."

5/ The term "significant further processing" refers only to re-awing and overlaying, but not cutting to length or joining member together.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOOD PRODUCTS SUBCOMMITTEE

A. Appointment of the Objective of the Measures

1. The objective of the Measures are to achieve substantial improvement in market access and to encourage the use of wood products in Japan.

2. With the implementation of the Measures, it is the intent of the GOJ that the use and importation of wood products and wood building types will be facilitated and a framework established for addressing any relevant issues in the future.

3. Toward this end, the GOJ will cooperate with the USG and/or interested parties to resolve expeditiously any dispute or problem related to the building standard, JAS standard or tariff classification in a manner consistent with the Measures.

B. Wood Products Subcommittee

1. For the purpose of overseeing the implementation of the policies, procedures and provisions set forth in the Measures, resolving disputes and problems arising under it, and facilitating trade in wood products as well as the increased use of wood products, a Wood Products Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the U.S.-Japan Trade Committee will be established.

a. The Subcommittee will be composed of senior officials of the GOJ and the USG and other appropriate government experts.

b. The Subcommittee will meet twice a year at or about the same time as the Trade Committee, and more frequently when requested.

2. The Subcommittee will review the actual implementation and operation of the policies, provisions and procedures upon which the Measures are based, as well as the work of the technical committees established under the Measures (Building Expert Committee and JAS Technical Committee). When disputes arise with respect to the implementation of the Measures, the Subcommittee should seek to resolve them within six months.

3. The Subcommittee will endeavor to identify areas of cooperation which will contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Measures. If the Subcommittee identifies areas in which revision are appropriate to achieve the objective of the Measures, the GOJ will initiate a mutually agreeable revision.

VI. SUBSIDIES

In order that the objective of the Measures will not be undermined, it is the intention of the GOJ that any existing or future subsidies to manufacturers of forest products shall be consistent with the Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and, in that regard, will not nullify or impair benefits arising to any GATT Contracting Party, directly or indirectly, under the GATT. In addition, such subsidies will be consistent with the OECD Statement on Positive Adjustment Policy of 1982.

ANNEX A

JAPANESE WOOD PRODUCTS TARIFFS

HS # Current

Sawn Wood

4407.10-110 8.0 E

4407.10-121 4.

4407.10-210 .0

4407.10-2 0 10.0

r Sh ts A d Sh ts for Plywood

440 10-010 0

440 .10-021 5.0

440 .10-02 5.0

440 . 0-410 5.0

440 . 0-4 0 5.0

Wood Co ti uously Sh p d lo g y of

its Edg s or F c s

440 .10-100 7.5

440 10-200 4.

440 .10-310 .0

440 .10-320 0

440 .20-1 0 7.5

440 .20-200 4.

440 .20-320 0

440 .20-330 10.0 a

440 .20-340 0

P rticl bo rd

4410.10-010 .0

4410 10-020 10.0

Fib rbo rd

4411.11-000 5.2

4411.1 -000 5.2

4411.21-000 3.5

4411.2 -000 3.5

4411.31-000 3.5

4411.3 -000 3.5

4411. 1-000 3.5

4411. -000 3.5

Plywood U. P ls d Simil r L mi t d Wood

4412.12-011 10.0 a

4412.12-019 1 .0

4412.12-021 1 .0

4412.12-022 10.0

4412.19-011 10.0

4412.19-019 1 .0

4412.19-021 1 .0

4412.19-022 10.0

4412.21-010 1 .0

4412.21-090 20.0

4412.29-010 1 .0

4412.29-090 20.0

4412.91-010 1 .0

4412.91-090 20.0

4412.99-010 1 .0

4412.99-090 20.0

ders' Joinery and Carpentry of Wood

4418.30-000 3.9

4418.40-000 3.9

4418. 0-000 .8

4418.90-100 10.0

4418.90-221 3.9

4418.90-229 3.9

Other Articles of Wood

4421.90-099 .8

ANNEX

I. THE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS CONCERNING BUILDING STANDARDS

1. The GOJ acknowledges the importance of fire safety, structural performance and fire control requirements in its building standards.

2. It is the policy of the GOJ that the use of wood products and wood building systems should be permitted where these products and systems provide levels of safety equivalent to or superior to those required of other building materials. It further recognizes that standards for safety are not fixed but vary in accordance with technological developments. In this regard, the GOJ recognizes that progress has been, and continues to be, made in the development of wood building systems providing the structural and fire safety equivalent to other building systems.

3. It is the policy of the GOJ that building standards should be transparent, facilitate the introduction of new products and systems, protect safety and, to the maximum extent possible, be performance-based. Thus, the h

GOJ ackn g s that:

a. Th Mēasur s sh u n t n y r s v curr nt isput s but stab ish a syst m that a viat p t ntia pr b ms that may aris in th futur c nc rning th intr ucti n f n pr ucts r syst ms int th bui ing stan ar s an facit at th mo ificati n f xisting bui ing stan ar s s ast p rmit th us f pr v n pr ucts an saf bui ing syst ms.

b. n acc r anc th th Mēasur s raft r n c ssary t chn gica stu y has b n c mp t , th GOJ c ntinu t inc rp rat pr v n pr ucts an saf syst ms int its bui ing stan ar s an activ y mak th mo ificati ns in its bui ing stan ar s n c ssary t acc mp ish th s bj ctiv s an th acti ns sp cifi in this Ann x.

c. t is imp rtant that bui ing stan ar s r gar ing th us f pr ucts, syst ms an c rtificati n b c ar, pr ictab an r a i y avaiab t int r st parti s. T that n , th GOJ impr v th inf rmati ns rvic s avaiab t f r ign ntiti s as sp cifi in this Ann x.

. Giv n th pr f r nc f th Japan s f r h using an th c st c mp titiv n ss f such h using, c nstructi n in Japan is ik y t incr as significant y as a r sut f th Mēasur s.

. ACT ONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOJ N F SCAL YEAR 1991

. Th GOJ ^Wi a , t th maximum xt nt p ssib , p rf rmanc -bas stan ar s in th s cas s r n y pr scriptiv bui ing stan ar s ar stipu at , inc u ing but n t imit t th f ng;

a. Th GOJ v p an imp ment n t stst a th us f rs f i r a Typ A an ^h Typ B I app icati ns (Jun , 1990);

b. Th GOJ inc rp rat th f ng chang s in structura r stricti ns n frame c nstructi n r th saf ty has b n c nfirme thr ugh structura ca cu ati ns:

(1) ncr as ⁱ th f r ar a surr un ⁱ by b aring in s fr m th curr nt 60 squar met rs; ^h

(2) ncr as th istanc b t n b aring in s fr m th curr nt 12 met rs r ss;

(3) ncr as th th f p nings in b aring in s fr m th curr nt 4 met rs r ss;

(4) Chang th n i ing r quir ments; an ^a

(5) Eas th r stricti ns n th us f memb rs f iff r nt structur s.

2. Th GOJ r vis th structura sign manua inc u ing curr nt basic ata an gui in s f r th structura sign f arg s cti na bui ings. Th GOJ a arg s cti na bui ings as quasi-fir pr f bui ings an p rmit th c nstructi n an us f th f ng:

a. n quasi-fir pr t cti n istricts, urban ar as an ⁱ a th r ar as xc pt fir pr t cti n istricts, bui ings f n mor than thr st ri s f r ffic s an r h us s r any c mbinati n th r f, th a t ta f r ar a f I fr m 500 squar met rs t n t mor than 1500 squar met rs;

b. n ar as utsi f fir pr t cti n istricts an quasi-fir pr t cti n istricts, ⁱ bui ings f n t mor than t st ri s f r c mmercia/r tai (partment st r s, sh ps, tc.), ffic s r any c mbinati n th r f, th a t ta f r ar a f ss than 500 squar met rs n th s c n f r, an an aggr gat t ta f r ar a f n t mor than 3000 squar met rs f r th ntir bui ing. ⁱ

c. n ar as utsi f fir pr t cti n istricts an quasi-fir pr t cti n istricts, bui ings f n t mor than t st ri s, such as h t s, rmit ri s, tc., th a t ta f r ar a f ss than 300 squar met rs n th s c n f r an an aggr gat t ta f r ar a f n t mor than 3000 squar met rs f r th ntir bui ing.

3. Th GOJ mak th n c ssary t chnica ⁱ va uati n t p rmit int ri rs th c i ings f n nc mbustib I r s mi n nc mbustib mat ria s.

4. The GO shall grant a permit for new building materials or building elements which do not require unique and/or complex technology and are accompanied by appropriate manuals.

5. The GO shall allow the construction of restaurants, shops, cub houses as well as cottages of construction by making the following changes in the building standards (Sprin, 1990):

a. The restrictions on total floor area shall be modified to increase the maximum allowable area from the current 10 square meters to 300 square meters. The restrictions on height shall be increased from a maximum height of 7 meters to 8 meters.

b. The restrictions on the sectional area of the construction shall be revised to increase the current limit of between 120 and 700 square centimeters to between 120 and 1400 square centimeters.

c. The limit on the height of bearing shall be changed from no more than 3.2 meters to no more than 4.0 meters.

d. The limit on the depth (horizontal distance) of bearing shall be eased from more than 1 meter to more than $0.3 \times H$ (H = height) meters.

e. The limit on the distance between bearing shall be increased from 6 meters or less to 8 meters or less and the limit on the floor area surrounded by bearing shall be increased from 30 square meters or less to 40 square meters or less, if the safety of the structure has been confirmed by structural calculations or experimentation.

f. The requirement for the number of doors shall be revised to take into account the diameter of the doors used.

6. The GO shall allow the construction of three-story, multi-family residential and commercial and mixed use buildings, as specified in sub-paragraph (f) below in areas outside of fire protection districts and quasi-fire protection districts in the following conditions, which shall be applied in such a manner as to allow the practical and economic construction of such buildings, which shall not reduce the safety level, are met:

a. Setbacks from the boundary of the adjacent lot are 3 meters (side) and 4 meters (front and back);

b. Buildings may be from 100 up to 1000 square meters in size;

c. Main structural components, such as walls, floors, ceilings and roofs meet the one-hour fire test specified in Paragraph 8 of this Part of the Annex;

d. Evacuation facilities enable residents to exit in two or more directions;

e. When building sections are separated by a fireproof system, using non-combustible material of a thickness of 3 meters, each section shall be treated as a separate building for purposes of calculation of the permissible building area; and

f. The uses of three-story, multi-family residential and commercial and mixed use buildings are the following:

(1) The first and second floors can be used in various ways, such as for offices, stores, apartments, commercial/retail establishments (including both goods and services), offices such as for lawyers, doctors and other professions, and restaurants; and

(2) The third floor can only be used for offices and apartments.

7. The GO shall allow fire-preventive buildings of solid frame construction as quasi-fireproof buildings and permit the construction and use of the buildings specified below. Main structures of these buildings, such as walls, floors, ceilings and roofs must meet a one-hour fire test as specified in Paragraph 8 of this Part of the Annex.

a. In quasi-fire protection districts, urban areas and other areas except fire protection districts, buildings of no more than three stories for offices and row houses or any combination thereof, with a total floor area of 500

from 500 square meters to no more than 1500 square meters;

b. In the case of fire protection districts and fire protection districts, wood buildings of no more than two stories for commercial/retail (department stores, shops, etc. or offices or any combination thereof, with one floor not less than 500 square meters on the second floor, and not greater than one floor not more than 3000 square meters for high-rise building.

c. In the case of fire protection districts and fire protection districts, wood buildings of no more than two stories, schools, dormitories, etc., with one floor not less than 300 square meters on the second floor and not greater than one floor not more than 3000 square meters for high-rise building.

8. The GOJ will conduct a technical review and publish new fire safety measures and criteria similar to that of ISO TS 834. The safety measures and criteria will be chosen to promote the use of wood/gypsum systems which meet the requirements for fire ratings for high ISO TS 834.

9. The GOJ will formulate standards for the use of wood for exterior walls of fireproof and fireproof buildings in the case of fire protection districts and fire protection districts along with construction positions and fire performance.

10. Following submission of standards and documents on structural fire control systems, the MOC will grant approval to the allowable number of stories for special limits; and for this purpose the MOC will recognize the limit by applying special grade marks. After this is possible, the MOC will incorporate the number of stories in the building standards.

11. The GOJ will provide the information services provided by the MOC. These include the safety measures of construction for fire insurance in the MOC and the safety measures of fire insurance in the fire insurance industry. Building Code of Japan to provide information in English on approval systems, as well as the provision of briefing sessions for fire insurance on buildings and standards and approval systems. The GOJ will make every effort to ensure that fire insurance companies are aware of the availability of these services.

12. The GOJ will review the restrictions on height and volume for wood buildings described in Paragraph 6 of this Part of the Annex, and for the following complex cases which meet the conditions specified in the Paragraph, provide the following:

. An average height of 11 meters; and

b. A height of 15 meters. However, provision must be made for increasing the allowable height of the building to maximize the building space and promote economic and practical construction in houses where the construction type of the roof and the dimensions (length and width of the building) are chosen and the 15 meter height limit is improved.

III. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOJ IN FISCAL YEAR 1993

1. As provided for in Paragraph 6 of Part II of this Annex, the GOJ will allow the construction of fire-safety, multi-family wood housing and commercial mixed-use buildings, as specified in subparagraph (f) below, in the case of fire protection districts and fire protection districts with the following modifications in the buildings and standards, which shall be applied in accordance with the practical and economic construction of schools and buildings with the following:

. Subsets from the category of the department store 3 meters (general) and 4 meters (from the back:

b.) The allowable size of the building will be increased substantially to 1000 square meters, but no more than 3000 square meters;

c. The fire safety measures and criteria referred to in Paragraph 8 of Part II of this Annex will be revised as appropriate. However, the safety measures and criteria will be chosen to promote the construction and use of wood/gypsum systems which meet the requirements for fire ratings for high ISO TS 834:)

d. Main structural components, such as walls, floors, ceilings and roofs and meet the one-hour fire resistance specified in sub-paragraph () above; and

e. The GO will develop a national fire separation between building sections, in accordance with international practice, with an intention of reducing the size of the fire separation system and of permitting firewalls. Building sections separated by such walls shall be treated as separate buildings for purposes of addressing the possible building area.

f. The uses of high-rise, multi-family wood housing and commercial and mixed-use wood buildings are the following:

(1) The fire and second floors can be used in various ways, such as offices, stores, apartments, commercial/retail establishments (including both goods and services), offices such as law firms, doctors and other professionals, and restaurants;

(2) The third floor can only be used for offices and apartments.

2. Based on the experience gained from the implementation of the Measures, in paragraph 1 the actions undertaken pursuant to this Annex, the GO will review its building standards on eave heights, area and other requirements so that the use of wood may be expanded.

IV. BUILDING EXPERTS COMMITTEE

1. The GO will, in cooperation with the USG and/or other interested countries, establish a Building Experts Committee, including representatives of the building sector and private educational experts in Japan, the United States and other countries.

2. The purposes of this Committee will be to:

a. hold regular meetings to exchange views and deepen the

understanding of each other's building standards and codes;

b. examine the building standards and building codes of each other with the objective of providing for the harmonization of standards, in particular with respect to the future development of common standards and engineering methodologies; and

c. prepare annual reports on the progress of the implementation of the actions specified in this Annex.

ANNEX C

In order to provide for the ignition of AS and IS standards in the building standards, the GO confirms the following:

1. Following evaluation of the test data provided by entities of the United States and/or other countries, the GO will recognize Oriented Strand Board and Wafer board (OSB/WB) which meet the AS for structural panels as having equivalent performance characteristics to the same thickness of Class Two Plywood. It is recognized that the U.S. has already provided this data and that the GO has already initiated this process.

2. The GO will implement the following measures concerning the usage of OSB/WB:

a. OSB/WB will be added to the notification on multiplicities of wood frame (the analysis coefficient for shear wall) for wooden buildings using Japanese post and beam construction;

b. OSB/WB will be permitted for use in bearing walls of conventional wooden buildings;

and

c. OSB/WB will be permitted for use in walls, floors and as sheathing on roofs in wood frame construction.

3. The GO will improve the measurement methods for fire endurance.

4. Based on the data provided by the authority, the GOJ will approve under the building standards the use of boxes, as well as the materials and fasteners, in wood construction in all areas of the authority, in accordance with the building codes.
5. Within six months, the GOJ will seek to complete the building standards within six months, following the decision by JAS, and the measures used in the amended wood products, as well as in all lumber materials.

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ANNEX D

OPEN APPROVAL FOR NEW SYSTEMS AND PRODUCTS

WHICH DEMONSTRATE ADEQUATE PERFORMANCE

1. The GOJ will grant approval for new building materials building elements which demonstrate unique and complex technology for building standards and are accompanied by a technical manual.
2. Should the approval be possible immediately, a technical manual for new structural building material systems for specific applications should be granted within the next months. Open approval for new structural materials assemblies should be granted within the next months.
3. Where a new product system is unique technically complex and the initial approval must be limited to specific applications, the GOJ will grant, unless there are exceptional circumstances, approval for the application as a result of a balanced form of the full application for the product system.

ANNEX E

This annex is included. It is a full age spread sheet detailing the cumulative necessary for a saw mill and for GOJ certification of its quality control systems, and indicates which equipment is being reduced eliminated.] "

TANC offers these agreements electronically as a public service for general reference. Every effort has been made to ensure that the text presented is complete and accurate. However, copies needed for legal purposes should be obtained from official archives maintained by the appropriate agency.