



27 November 2018



SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

Japan’s current CLT design value is derived from the strength value of inferior but dominant Japanese species, sugi (Japanese cedar). As such, the current standard does not recognize the design strength of CLT made from the lamstock of stronger wood species, such as Douglas-fir. The standard therefore worked as a trade barrier for U.S. wood species. SEC and FAS/Tokyo have raised a question on this issue.

On September 20, 2018, Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLIT) invited public comments on a draft amendment to the notification concerning cross laminate timber (CLT) design values. The amendment includes the strength value of U.S. species, including Douglas-fir, Western hemlock and Southern yellow pine. The proposed amendment enables more accurate design value calculations for CLT made from these species. MLIT invites public comments on the draft amendment by October 19, 2018. Please see our newly published GAIN report. Please circulate this to those who are interested in this topic.

http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Japan%20Seeks%20Public%20Comments%20on%20Proposed%20CLT%20Design%20Values_Tokyo_Japan_9-25-2018.pdf

Thank you for your supports on this issue. By the way, Mr. Masatoshi Tomoi of American Softwoods translated the Appendix part of the GAIN report.

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