

## Eco Mark Product Category No. 111

### “Board Made of Wood or the like Version2.7”

#### Certification Criteria

##### - Applicable Scope-

Boards defined in the Japan Industrial Standard, JIS A 5905 and A 5908, or the equivalent to this qualification

Established:	June 1, 2004
Last revised	April 1, 2025
Expiration date	June 30, 2030

Japan Environment Association
Eco Mark Office

NOTE: This document is a translation of the criteria written in Japanese. In the event of dispute, the original document should be taken as authoritative.

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**1. Purpose of Establishing Criteria**

Wooden board such as fiberboard is widely used in Japan for construction, furniture, electric appliances and general goods.

Since wooden board is made from reused or unused plant fiber such as plywood lumber, disposed lumber from lumber factories, lumber from dismantled buildings, used packaging wood, low quality chips not used as raw material for paper, it contributes to optimizing the use of resources. The widespread use of such board should be encouraged.

In 2000, six important laws including the Basic Law for Establishing a Recycling-Based Society were enacted to realize a recycling-oriented society. Another example is the Construction Material Recycling Act (law on the recycling of materials used in construction) enforced in May 2002. This Act sets down basic principles for promoting the sorted dismantling and recycling of specific construction materials that have been disposed of, to facilitate effective use of construction materials and appropriate handling of wastes. Timber is also classified as a specific construction material. In basic policies based on the Act, the targeted recycling rate for specific construction materials in 2010 (including reduction) is set at 95%. The rate in 2000 was 83%, of which reduction made up 45% and recycling of lumber generated in construction 38%. Recycling includes materials used as heat sources. The rate of reuse in such materials is still low, indicating the need for further efforts. The characteristics of wood render it effective for carbon storage even in the form of a product, thus promoting use of wooded boards, which are recycled from wood, should help prevent global warming.

The Law on Promoting Green Purchasing (law related to promoting procurement of eco products by the government, etc.) is also another law established for the purpose of attaining a recycling-oriented society. This law lists recycled wooden boards such as particle and fiberboards as specific procurement items

However, some wooden board products consume a relatively large amount of energy at time of manufacturing, or contain formaldehyde in their adhesive which is emitted into the atmosphere in the room, having a potential adverse effect on health. These problems are increasingly drawing strong concerns and interests in recent years

amongst consumers for causing sick house syndrome. Based on these trends, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is gradually setting down guideline values related to indoor levels of chemical substances causing indoor pollution. On the other hand, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport is revising the Building Standard Law including health measures, etc., in relation to the emission of chemical substances indoors, and announcing technical standards concerning countermeasures for sick house syndrome.

Accordingly, wider use of wooden boards made of reused/unused wood that emit less chemicals contributes significantly to the conservation of the environment

## 2. Applicable Scope

Boards defined in the Japan Industrial Standard, JIS A 5905 and A 5908, or the equivalent to this qualification

## 3. Terminology

Reused/ Unused wood	Indicates the followings: thinned wood, waste wood, construction waste wood, and less useful wood.
* Thinned wood	Wood produced from work activities adjusting the individual density of the objective tree
* Waste wood	Used wood (used packaging material, etc.), remainder material generated in wood processing plants (shavings generated in plywood and lumber plants, etc, low quality chips not used as raw material for paper, etc.), and wood and wooden materials such as trimmed branches, bark, etc.
* Construction waste wood	Wood and wooden materials disposed as waste in construction work such as dismantling of buildings, construction of new buildings, building extensions, renovation, and construction related to other work.
* Less useful wood	Abandoned lumber in the forest, shrubs, tree roots, wood obtained from lumber damaged by disease, pests, disasters, bent or small diameter logs, etc. Also includes bamboo cut down in bamboo groves for the purpose of maintenance and management in environment preservation. Small caliber log measuring less than 14 cm in diameter corresponding to “a” or “b” below must be certified as forests sustainably managed by an independent third party or a public organization.

	a.: Small diameter log from logs felled from natural forests. b.: Small diameter log from logs produced by clear cutting, patch logging, and strip logging in plantation forests.
Natural forests	Strictly defined as forests which have not experienced human disturbances, but including forests which are intended for the direction to be natural forests, long after being influenced by human.
Natural regenerated forests	Similar to natural forests, forests with natural regeneration. They are intended to supply wood and wooden products. Regeneration support activities, fostering activities, etc. are provided.
Plantation forests	Forests made by planting, breeding, nursing, etc.
Waste plant fiber	Agricultural residue generated in harvesting and the manufacturing process such as rice hull, and used packaging material such as jute bag, etc.
Wooden part	Actual wood (including plant fiber)
Adhesive	Added for adhesive functions required in the manufacture of base-board in board making. Includes also agents added to bond baseboard with synthetic resin sheets when implementing overlays.
Additive	Added to give new characteristics to products or supplement insufficient properties. Examples are hardeners, wax, formaldehyde catcher
Decorative work	Overlay, painting, etc.
*Coating	The application of synthetic resin coating to both or one side of the baseboard by baking or printing. Examples include plain finish where the decorated side is rendered in one color, and patterned finish such as wood-like finish or subjective patterns.
*Overlay:	The pasting of synthetic resin sheet, film, synthetic resin impregnated paper, coated paper, after-coated paper, etc. to both or one side of the baseboard. Examples include plain finish where the decorated side is rendered in one color, patterned finish such as wood-like finish or subjective patterns. Also includes pasting of decorated veneer to both

	or one side of the baseboard.
Prescription constituents	Components intentionally added with the purpose of providing particular functions to the product. Impurities which are inevitably mixed during the manufacturing process are excluded.

#### 4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure

To show the conformance with the criteria, the Attached Certificates shall be submitted.

##### 4-1. Environmental Criteria and Certification Procedure

(1) The percentage of reused/unused wood or waste plant fiber provided by terminology as materials for wooden parts shall be 100%. Less useful wood with small diameters shall satisfy Attachment 1 for forest certification if corresponding to “a” or “b”.

##### [Certification Procedure]

Documents issued by the raw material vendor certifying that the raw material is reused /unused wood or waste plant fibers shall be submitted. If there are multiple vendors, a list of the vendors and list of certification of the top 10 vendors in terms of volume of material traded shall be submitted.

If using thinned wood as the material, a certificate of origin that includes information on the place of production, type of tree, and year of planting shall be submitted with photographs of the forest concerned (showing clearly that the forest stand has been thinned). The thinning percentage and how many times the forest stand has been thinned, including the most recent thinning shall also be indicated if possible.

If using less useful wood, the following information shall be submitted. At the same time, official documents stating that the forest has been certified as sustainable by a third party shall be submitted.

- Type of forest (natural or man-made, etc.), place of production, type of tree, and year of tree planting if man-made forest.
- Under what conditions was the wood produced (damaged by disease/pests, damaged by disaster, bent or narrow trees, etc.). For small caliber log, indicate logging method and tip end diameter.

If using bamboo as the raw material in less useful wood, certificates indicating the following information and photographs/maps of the

surroundings of the bamboo grove shall be submitted.

- Type of bamboo, place of production, surrounding conditions, and description that logging is carried out for the purpose of appropriate maintenance and management in environment preservation, as well as management plans and quantity.

(2) As for products which are given decorative works, the percentage of the decorative works shall be 5% or less (weight percentage) of the whole product.

(Note) The weight percentage means the weight percentage of the product or each material at the air dried state\*1 or at the point of constant weight\*2 under the condition of a temperature of 20±2°C and humidity of 65±5%.

\*1: Indicates leaving in a well-ventilated room for seven days or more.

\*2: Change is less than 0.1% when weight is measured every 24 hours.

[Certification Procedure]

The weight percentage of decorated portions against the product weight shall be indicated in the attached certificate.

(3) Prescription constituents and weight percentage shall be reported for adhesives and additives. Adhesives and additives containing halogens should not be used.

[Certification Procedure]

The prescription constituents and weight percentage shall be indicated in the attached certificate.

(4) Products should not use wood preserving agents (wood termicides, wood preservatives, wood pesticides, and wood fungicides) as prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether the concerned substances are added or not shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

(5) For products using lumber from dismantled buildings (wood and wooden materials disposed in dismantling), lumber subject to preservatives, termicides, and pesticides shall be differentiated and eliminated. The content of harmful substances in these products shall meet the requirements for hexavalent chromium and arsenic given in Attachment 5, which is provide by the detailed enforcement regulations (December 26, 2002, Environment Ministry Ordinance No. 29) of the Soil Pollution Control Law.

[Certification Procedure]

Documents certifying that lumber from dismantled buildings is sorted in use or not used (work manual, workflow, etc.) shall be submitted. If using lumber from dismantled buildings, results of tests implemented by a third party testing centers or public institutions shall be submitted.

- (6) Emissions of formaldehyde from products shall be of the F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS A 5905 or JIS A 5908, or falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The products should meet the numerical criteria of “a” or “b” below.
- The amount of Formaldehyde emissions measured by JIS A 1460 “Building boards Determination of formaldehyde emission -- Desicator method” shall be below 0.3 mg/l for average value and below 0.4 mg/l for maximum value.
  - The emission rate of formaldehyde measured by JIS A 1901 “Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds and formaldehydes for building products -- Small chamber method” shall be less than  $5\mu\text{g}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{h})$ .

[Certification Procedure]

Test result indicating that results of measurements by methods prescribed in JIS A 1460 or JIS A 1901 meet standard levels shall be submitted. For products permitted to be labeled F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS A 5905 and JIS A 5908 or products authorized as falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results.

- (7) Toluene and xylene shall not be added as prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether the concerned substances are added or not shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (8) If any paint is used for the product, heavy metals and heavy metal compounds defined in Attachment 2 shall not be added as prescription constituents of the paint.

[Certification Procedure]

A list stating whether the concerned substances are added or not shall be submitted. However, if using Eco Mark certified paint, the product name and certification number of the concerned paint can be indicated in the attached certificate in place of certifying compliance with the application criteria.

(9) For decorative work, resins made of halogens and organic halogenides shall not be added as prescription constituents. The prescription constituents of decorated parts shall be reported.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether the concerned substances are added or not during surface processing shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

(10) In manufacturing the applied product, related environmental laws and regulations and pollution control agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Environmental Laws, etc.”) must be followed with respect to air pollution, water contamination, noise, offensive odor, and emission of hazardous substances in the area where the plant performing the final manufacturing process is located.

In addition, the state of compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. for the past five years from the date of application (whether there is any violation) must be reported. If there is any violation, proper remedies and preventive measures shall have been already taken, and the related Environmental Laws, etc. must thereafter be followed appropriately.

[Certification Procedure]

With respect to the compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. in the area where the plant performing the final manufacturing process is located, a certificate issued by the representative of the business of manufacturing the applied product or the relevant plant manager (entry or attachment of a list of names of the Environmental Laws, etc.) must be submitted.

In addition, the applicants shall report whether there is any violation in the past five years, including a violation subject to administrative punishment or administrative guidance, and if there is, the following documents in a and b must be submitted:

- a. With respect to the fact of violation, guidance documents from administrative agencies (including order of correction and warning) and copies of written answers (including those reporting causes and results of correction) to such documents (clearly indicating a series of communication);
- b. Following materials (copies of recording documents, etc.) concerning the management system for compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. in 1)-5):
  - 1) List of the Environmental Laws, etc. related to the area where the plant is located;



- 2) Implementation system (organizational chart with roles, etc.);
- 3) Bylaws stipulating retention of recording documents;
- 4) Recurrence prevention measures (future preventive measures);
- 5) State of implementation based on recurrence prevention measures (result of checking of the state of compliance, including the result of onsite inspection).

(11) Energy-saving efforts shall be made in the manufacturing process.

[Certification Procedure]

The energy used during manufacturing per product unit (CO<sub>2</sub> emission) shall be submitted (KJ/m<sup>3</sup>, KW/m<sup>3</sup>, KJ/t, KW/t or kg-C/m<sup>3</sup>). Here manufacturing means the overall production process from the point the production plant received the raw materials. Documents on the actual energy used (CO<sub>2</sub> emission) shall also be submitted during renewal of contract.

(12) The packaging of the product shall give consideration to resource-saving, ease of recycling, etc. Plastic materials used in a product container and packaging shall not use plastics containing halogen in the polymer backbone.

[Certification Procedure]

The packaging state at shipment (packaging method, packaging material, etc.) and whether the concerned substances are added or not to containers/packaging shall be indicated in the Attached Certification

(13) Manuals on use shall be prepared and distributed to users of the product. Manuals shall include the following details:

- i) Information related to Criteria 4-1. (1)-(9). (Indicate that enquiries can be made on details.)
- ii) Product information related to disposal and recycling.

[Certification Procedure]

A manual shall be compiled and submitted. (a manuscript is acceptable.)

#### 4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedure

(1) JIS products shall conform to the corresponding quality standard of JIS A 5905, JIS A 5908, etc. Other products shall conform to similar JIS standards for items for which measurement methods are set down in JIS.

[Certification Procedure]

Test results prescribed by JIS, etc. shall be submitted.

## 5. Considerations

In the process of manufacturing products, it is desirable to consider the following items, although they are not requirements for certification.

- (1) Quantitative environmental information on greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of the applied product, from the procurement of the raw materials to the disposal and recycling, shall be disclosed, which is calculated by converting into carbon dioxide equivalents based on the global warming potential (when applying for multiple types at once, calculation by a representative type is acceptable). It shall be possible to explain that the quantitative environmental information has been calculated in accordance with the Carbon Footprint (ISO 14067), Life Cycle Assessment (ISO 14040 and ISO 14044), or “Carbon Footprint Guidelines” prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment. The medium for disclosing the quantitative environmental information (URL of the calculation report, etc.) shall be disclosed as part of product information on the Eco Mark website.

## 6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) Products shall be classified by the classification in JIS A 5905 3.1 and A 5908 3a, and those equivalents (products using rice husks, etc.) and by product brand name. Classification by the product size is not performed.
- (2) In principle, Eco Mark shall be indicated on the product. The Eco Mark Utilization Contractors who own the Eco Mark products shall also be allowed to indicate the description and the certification number as before.



(Note for the indication)

\*For indicating the logo, Eco Mark certification number (eight-digit number) or the name of the licensee using the logo shall be appeared.

\* Such expression as “Eco Mark product” can be used following the 2.(2) of the

Guide to Eco Mark Usage.

“Eco Mark product”, “#Eco Mark”, “www.ecomark.jp”, “Eco Mark Certificate”

\* In accordance with “Environmental Labeling Guidelines” of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, etc., the environmental claims of certified products may be indicated in association with Eco Mark

(<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/ecolabel/guideline/>).

\*The Guide to Eco Mark Usage shall be followed for any cases not listed above.

(<https://www.ecomark.jp/office/guideline/guide/>)

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July 1, 2004	Established
October 19, 2006	Revised (Version2.1)
October 5, 2007	Extension of Expiration date
February 14, 2008	Extension of Expiration date
August 21, 2008	Revised (4-1.(10)、 5.(10) Version2.2)
March 1, 2011	Revised (5.(2) Indication Version2.3)
July 13, 2012	Revised (5. Version2.4)
February 1, 2014	Extension of Expiration date
January 7, 2019	Extension of Expiration date
April 1, 2019	Revised (5.(2) Indication)
December 15, 2022	Revised (4-1.(12) Version2.5)
March 15, 2024	Extension of Expiration date
March 1, 2025	Revised (4-1.(8) Version2.6)
April 1, 2025	Revised (5.(1) added, Version2.7)
June 30, 2030	Expiration date

The Certification Criteria for the Product Category will be revised when necessary.

## Attachment 1 Forestry Certification Provided Based on Definition of Terms

Certification criteria	- While balancing economical, ecological, and social benefits, the criteria shall comply with Agenda 21 and Statement of Principles on Forests, and observe related international agreements and conventions.
	- Including solid requirements, the criteria shall promote sustainable forests.
	- Recognized both domestically and internationally, the criteria shall be recommended as part of the process opened to participation by ecological, economical, and social stakeholders.
Certification system	- Certification systems shall have high transparency, maintain nation-wide or international reliability, and can verify requirements.
Certification body	- With fairness and high reliability, certification organizations and groups shall be able to verify that requirements are satisfied, convey the results, and able to execute requirements effectively.

## Attachment 2 List of Chemicals Prescribed in 4-1.(8)

Substance
Cadmium,
Mercury
Hexavalent chromium,
Lad,
Arsenic,
Antimony
Tributyltin
Triphenyl tin