

(Provisional translation)

No. 2003

September 12, 2003

To: The Head of Designated Performance Evaluation Bodies as attached

From: The Director of Housing Guidance Division, Housing Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Re: Performance evaluation of formaldehyde-emitting building materials utilizing test data from overseas test organizations.

I hereby notify you of the guidelines for the time being on performance evaluation utilizing test data from overseas test organizations as a guide to application for Ministerial authorization of performance evaluation service regulation of formaldehyde-emitting building materials, as follow:

**Guidelines for Performance Evaluation of Formaldehyde-emitting Building Materials
Utilizing Test Data from Overseas Test Organizations**

1. Application

This guideline applies to performance evaluation for Ministerial Approval of formaldehyde-emitting building materials as stipulated in the Building Standard Law (hereinafter referred to as "the Law") Enforcement Order Article 20-5 Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, when designated performance evaluation bodies contract with overseas test organizations on their own responsibility and conduct performance evaluation utilizing their test data.

2. Test Method

Test data from overseas test organizations utilized for performance evaluation shall be derived from the same test methods (including test conditions) as designated performance evaluation bodies use in Japan.

3. Overseas test organizations

Overseas test organizations shall comply with criteria for designation of designated performance evaluation bodies. (Article 77-38 of the Law applied mutatis mutandis to Article 77-56 Paragraph 2 of the Law.)

4. On-site inspection

Overseas test organizations shall undergo on-site inspections of testing equipment, testing service structures, etc. or by officials of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) or by persons to whom MLIT entrusts such duties (hereinafter referred to as “officials of MLIT, etc.”) and by employees / evaluators of designated performance evaluation bodies under contract with overseas test organizations. (In this case, travel expenses, etc. of officials of MLIT, etc. are covered by MLIT.)

5. Amendment of performance evaluation Service Regulation (including performance evaluation manual), etc.

Based on this guideline, contracting with overseas test organizations, designated performance evaluation bodies intending to operate performance evaluation utilizing their test data, shall conduct necessary formalities such as amendment of performance evaluation service regulation (including performance evaluation manual), etc.

6. Translation

When overseas test organizations prepare documents which relate to performance evaluation based on this guideline, and which are necessary for examination in order to obtain Ministerial Approval, these documents shall be accompanied by a Japanese translation.

7. Others

Besides, designated performance evaluation bodies, in consultation with overseas test organizations, shall state all practical requirements in writing.

Designated Performance Evaluation Bodies

The Building Center of Japan

Japan Testing Center for Construction Materials

Center for Better Living

General Building Research Corporation of Japan

Japan Housing and Wood Technology Center

Japan Spinners Inspecting Foundation

Japan Plywood Inspection

Japan Paint Inspection and testing Association

Chemicals Evaluation and Research Institute, Japan

Tokai Technology Center

Hokkaido Northern Regional Building Research Institute