

Japan Construction Material & Housing Equipment Industries Federation

■ Purpose of activities

The Federation collects and shares information relating to the construction materials and housing equipment industries, carries out surveys and research, promotes the wider use and understanding of high-quality construction material and housing equipment and the creation of a base for the construction material and housing equipment industry, in order to contribute to the development of industry and improvements in citizens' lives in Japan.

■ History

The Federation was founded in 1949 as the Japan Construction Material Association, and was reformed into the Japan Construction Material Industry Federation (under license from METI) in 1988, with the intention of taking on the role of liaising among companies and groups engaged in the construction material industry as a whole. In 2005, the Federation undertook the work of the Japan Housing Equipment Systems Association, and changed its name to the Japan Construction Material and Housing Equipment Federation. Since April 2007, furthermore, the Federation has taken on the work of the Federation for Promotion of Landscape Material.

■ Address

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■ Role of Japan Construction Material & Housing Equipment Industries Federation (J-CHIF)

Construction materials and housing equipment industries currently distributed to various industry sectors and business categories are collected as one industry to enhance the social presence, thus J-CHIF strives to become a core organization for exploiting a new sphere of these activities. Moreover, J-CHIF will perform activities to achieve a central role as a window of the whole industry between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Housing Industry, Ceramics and Construction Materials Division.

■ Holding Advisory Meeting

Considering expectations from an administrative view, the role, function, etc. to be achieved by J-CHIF are discussed from a broader perspective, and reflected in the operation, business activity, etc. of J-CHIF. Members are president and vice-president of J-CHIF, Director of METI Housing Industry Ceramics and Construction Materials Division, executive director of J-CHIF, and Chairperson of Operational Committee.

Role of each committee, and activity of each subcommittee and working group

◆◆◆ Activity of each subcommittee is developed under the following six (6) committees. ◆◆◆

[1] Operational Committee

Comprehensive administration of J-CHIF activity, coordination and communication between mutual committees, deliberations and planning on common matters not belonging to other committees, and deliberations and planning on proposal matters from Board of Directors are carried out.

[2] Planning and Public Relations Committee

Proposal and external approach for improvement in presence as the industry, and exploitation of new sphere of activities, information service to members, such as a policy trend, investigation, examination, and development of various statistics, comprehension of industry trends and new technology trends, and external transmission of information on J-CHIF activities are carried out. Moreover, development and improvement in landscape and improvement in information service taking advantage of the CATALABO system is planned.

[Research and Statistics Subcommittee]

"Handbook of Statistics of Construction Materials and Housing Equipment" is due to update the amount of production, shipping money amount, etc. to the newest data and will be published in October. Moreover, contents of electronic data which have begun release on the homepage are made complete.

[Technical Subcommittee]

J-CHIF performs active exchange of information between member companies to aim at improvement in technical knowledge of the member organizations and companies by holding technical seminars and observation meetings, including new technology and technology trends, and also meets common technical challenges.

[Bulletins Subcommittee]

Information magazine "J-CHIF information" is published 10 times per year and newsletter "J-CHIF communication" is electronically delivered twice per month to offer members the situation of J-CHIF activities or relevant information. Moreover, examination is advanced concerning the future of information service using the homepage.

[Landscape Subcommittee]

Spreading and promotion of high quality landscape materials are carried out for development and improvement in landscape, and projects for collecting and providing a variety of information are promoted.

[Information Service Committee]

Promotion of utilization of the informational service "CATALABO" system of building materials and housing equipment, and enhancement of information are carried out. For promotion of impression and application to manufacturers, distributors, remodeling contractors, etc., public-relations and invitation activities are implemented and information contents are enhanced, and activities from a user viewpoint are planned and carried out.

[3] Standardization Committee

Decision of various JIS draft proposal and specifications of the industry group based on social situation to be shifted to performance criteria from specification criteria is reconsidered. Examination of ISO strategy and proposal to international organizations, such as ISO, etc. are carried out.

[Standardization Planning Subcommittee]

Examination and planning on contents of standardizing operation related to building materials and housing equipment are performed.

(JIS Establishment and Review Working Group)

New creation of JIS and periodic review of previous JIS related to building materials and housing equipment, etc. are carried out.
Building materials related JIS: 12 cases (including co-sponsored with other commonwealth)
Housing equipment related JIS: 4 cases (same as the above)
Establishment and maintenance, etc. of 8 cases of J-CHIF standards.

(ISO/TC77 Domestic Advisory Council)

Japanese proposal in test methods of fiber reinforced cement products, and making international standards of the products are implemented, and periodic review of ISO is met.

(ISO/TC89 Domestic Advisory Council)

Implementation of Japanese proposal and periodic review of ISO in making international standards for test methods and products related to wooden boards (fiberboards, particle boards) are met.

[Bath Unit Subcommittee]

Examination concerning items remaining as a future subject in JIS specifications established in fiscal year 2011 is performed.

[WPRC Subcommittee]

Places for information exchange for standardization, appropriate market formation, and development of the industry relating to wood and plastic recycled composite are provided, and promotion and awareness campaign of the products are performed.

[4]**Quality Committee**

Activities for ensuring people's safety, security and reliability, such as examination of quality and warranty matters, information service through various certification mark systems, examination of air pollution control, such as reduction measures against environmental impact from factories, of the building materials and housing equipment in consumers' viewpoints, are carried out.

[VOC Subcommittee]

Projects contributing to healthy lives, such as projects of formaldehyde emission grade examination, and VOC self-imposed certification mark systems are promoted.

(Formaldehyde emission grade labeling registration)
New registration and review of F**** are performed.

(Self-imposed certification mark systems regarding VOC emission from decorative plywood etc.)
"4VOC Standard Material" (trademark registration) can be indicated as a uniform mark on conforming items. (4VOC means four substances of toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene and styrene.)

[Humidity Conditioning Subcommittee]

Management and operational manners regarding "labeling and registration of humidity conditioned building material mark" are determined for the humidity conditioned building materials having predetermined humidity conditioning properties, and products excellent in quality are supplied to contribute to improvement of comfortable living.

[Antibacterial Subcommittee]

Indication of "J-CHIF antimicrobial product" is conducted on products conformed to criteria established by J-CHIF as antibacterial performance of indoor building materials, housing equipment, etc. of the products met with the guideline of METI.

[5]**Energy-saving and Environmental Committee**

Promotion and information service of energy saving of housings etc., survey and research for promotion of 3R (recycle, reduce, reuse), and proposal for promotion of green procurement are carried out.

[Energy-saving Planning and Diffusion Subcommittee]

Promotion and public relations activities such as seminars on energy saving, and activities in alignment with policy information on energy saving are carried out for promotion of high performance and energy-saving housings.

[Apartment Energy-saving Renovation Promotion Subcommittee]

Public-relations and PR activities to consumers of energy-saving building materials and equipment, enhancement of public-relations and PR data, information exchange organization maintenance with users, etc. are carried out for promotion of energy-saving renovation of existing housing and mid- to high-rise complex housing.

[Heat Insulation Material Promotion Subcommittee]

Pressure confronting the industry is surveyed and examined about heat insulating materials, and improvement in recognition of consumers and expansion of demand for heat insulation renovation are carried out.

[3R Subcommittee]

Activities for resource recycling society construction, such as information service on 3R, industrial waste treatment, green procurement, etc., commendation recommendation of 3R promotion persons and companies are carried out.

[6]**International Cooperation Committee**

International business activities of the building materials and housing equipment industry are indirectly supported. Examination for familiarizing products excellent in safety, the energy-saving properties, etc. of our country mainly through market in Asia is performed.

[Planning and Research Subcommittee]

Collection of information mainly on foreign countries concentrating on China and Southeast Asia is conducted, integration and sharing of information are attained, and also information service to members is carried out. Moreover, comprehension of concrete needs and proposals are performed through lectures or the like by construction-related companies, academic experts, etc.

[Interchange Subcommittee]

Improvement in the presence of Japan in the Asian market is attained by performing PR of Japanese green building materials and housing equipment, and needs collection of foreign countries through exchange activities mainly with Asian nations.

Other Activities**■ Liaison Conference**

A Liaison conference is held as an object organized by collective members of J-CHIF. Executives of each relevant ministry, such as METI, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, National Police Agency, Fire Defense Agency, are invited, and policy explanation and opinion exchange are performed. Moreover, the conference is utilized also for information exchange between organizations.

■ Media Meetings

For the purpose of public relations of J-CHIF activities, get-togethers with press-related persons are carried out.

■ Building Materials Product Liability (PL) Counseling Office

Inquiry from and consultation for general consumers, consumer centers, related PL centers, etc., are supported.