

- Where the imported product is compatible with, but cheaper than, the domestic product: multiply yen price by 1.5 to get the price for the import.

7 REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Approvals and Licences

There are no specific regulations prohibiting the import and sale of doors and windows in Japan. The only possible limiting factors are building and fire regulation codes.

These codes prohibit the use of wooden entrance doors and windows in highrise apartments and in houses located in Class 1 and Class 2 fire protection areas which cover most metropolitan areas.

However the largest markets for wooden entrance doors and windows is for single-family dwellings in those metropolitan fire protection areas in spite of official prohibition. In practice such doors are accepted if they are at least 5 m away from neighbouring houses or the street. In addition, it is widely accepted in the house-construction industry that actual fire resistance properties of wooden doors and windows are not necessarily worse than those of aluminum and steel products. Thus, the regulations are not strictly enforced for private houses, providing that documentation is in order.

Further, standards for fire resistance properties of wooden doors and windows are currently under review. They are being investigated by the Wooden Window Sash Committee sponsored indirectly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The committee expects that further use of wooden doors and windows will be permitted in the near future.

Japanese Industrial Standards

There are several Japan Institute of Standards (JIS) standards for doors and windows. Aluminum doors and windows need JIS certification, but other standards are guidelines and not compulsory. The JIS standards are:

- Standards for aluminum and steel door sets for entrance of dwellings (JIS A 4712);
- Standards for aluminum and steel doors (JIS A 4702);
- Standards for wooden sliding glass doors (JIS A 4602);
- Standards for wooden flash doors (JIS A 4601);
- Standards for aluminum and steel windows (JIS A 4706); and
- Standards for PVC windows for interior installed (JIS A 4714).