



TRANSPARENCY IN STANDARD-SETTING

COMMUNICATION FROM JAPAN

The following communication, dated 15 February 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Japan.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Japan would like to express sincere appreciation for the WTO Secretariat's efforts to make valuable and useful notes on TBT Thematic Sessions. Japan would like to submit its comments and share experiences on the notes on TBT Second Thematic Session: Standards 1, which will be held on 5 March 2013 for the Sixth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement, incorporating various comments from Members.

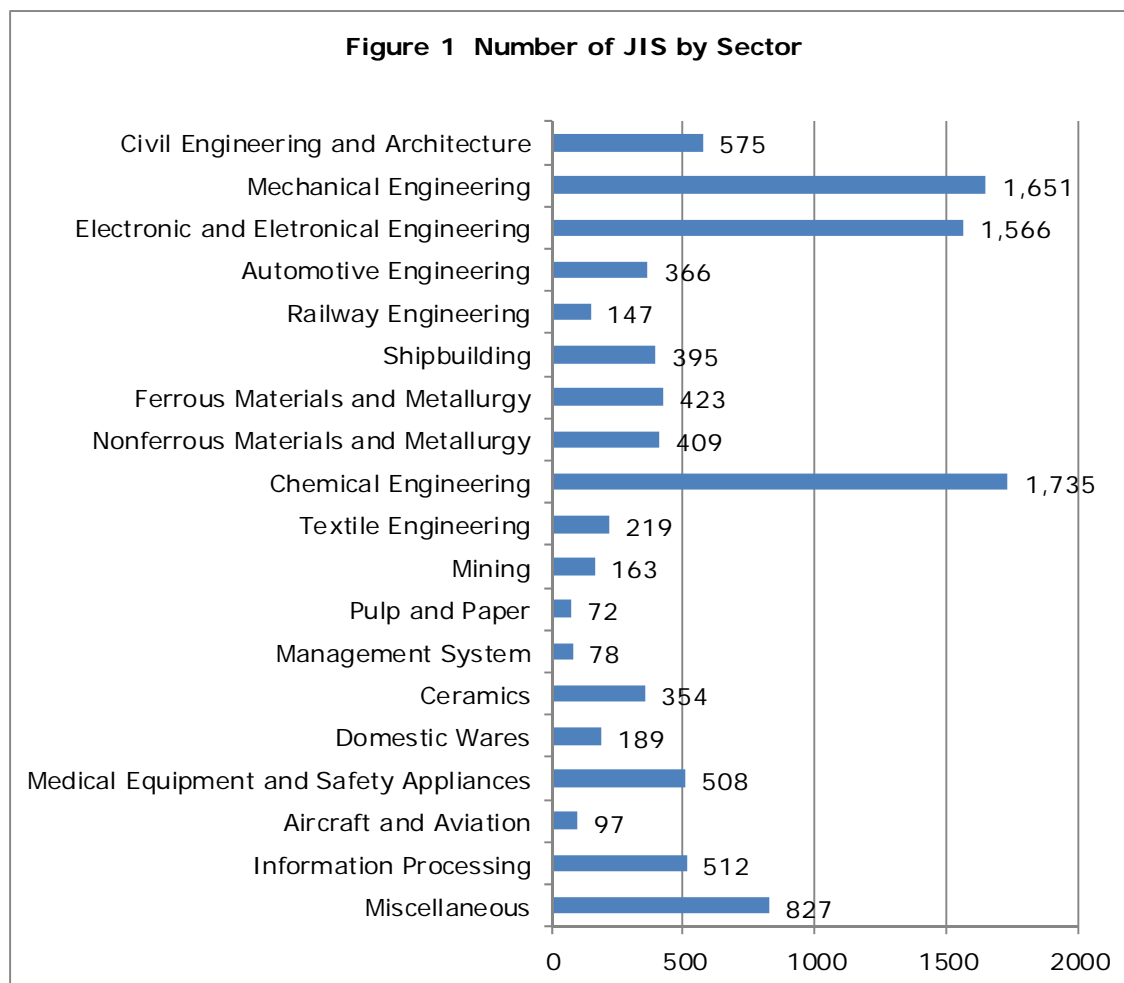
1.2. Japan's comments and experiences are based on "Transparency in standard-setting" in the report on Sixth Triennial Review (G/TBT/32) in paragraph 9 which says "adequate period of time for interested parties in the territory of at least all members of the international standardizing body to make comments in writing and take these written comments into account in the further consideration of the standard."

2 JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS

2.1. Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) are national standards developed based on the Industrial Standardization Act (1949) with an aim to promote the industrial standards of Japan.

2.2. Each JIS is given its own number. The JIS numbers, in principle, consist of a combination of one letter of the alphabet that indicates the sector and a four-digit number. (e.g. JIS G3101: Rolled steels for general structure). The letter "G" indicates the "Ferrous Materials and Metallurgy" sector in JIS numbers.

2.3. Regarding the activities situation of Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) in the fiscal year 2011 is as follows: 178 JIS were newly established, 417 were revised, 148 were withdrawn and 1,959 were confirmed. As of March 31, 2012, 10,289 JIS have been developed and the breakdown of these JIS by sector is shown in Figure 1.



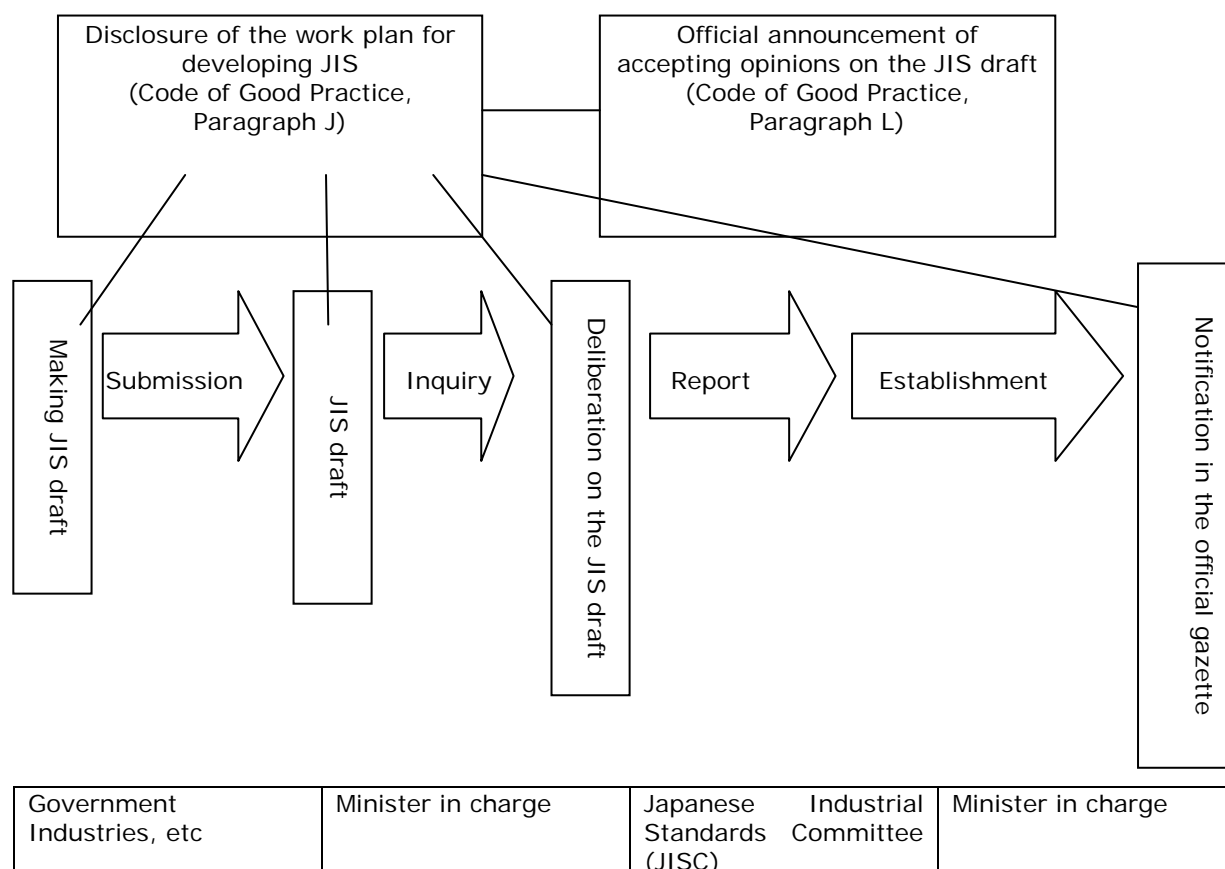
As of the end of March 2012

3 ROLES OF THE JISC

3.1. The Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) is a deliberative body established within the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and is engaged in investigations and deliberations over the issues of industrial standardization based on the Industrial Standardization Act. Its functions include deliberations on the development and/or revision of Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) and making recommendations and reports to the relevant ministers with respect to the promotion of industrial standardization such as JIS etc. The JISC also participates in international standardization activities of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), as a member representing Japan.

4 PROCESS OF DEVELOPING JIS

4.1. When a task for standardization arises from social needs in the government or in industry, surveys and research activities are performed to collect necessary data for standardization on an as-needed basis. Based on the results, a "JIS draft" is formulated by the JIS draft committee (consists of the relevant parties). The JIS draft is then deliberated upon by the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) and is formally enforced or revised by the Minister in charge. The process of JIS development is as shown in Figure 2.

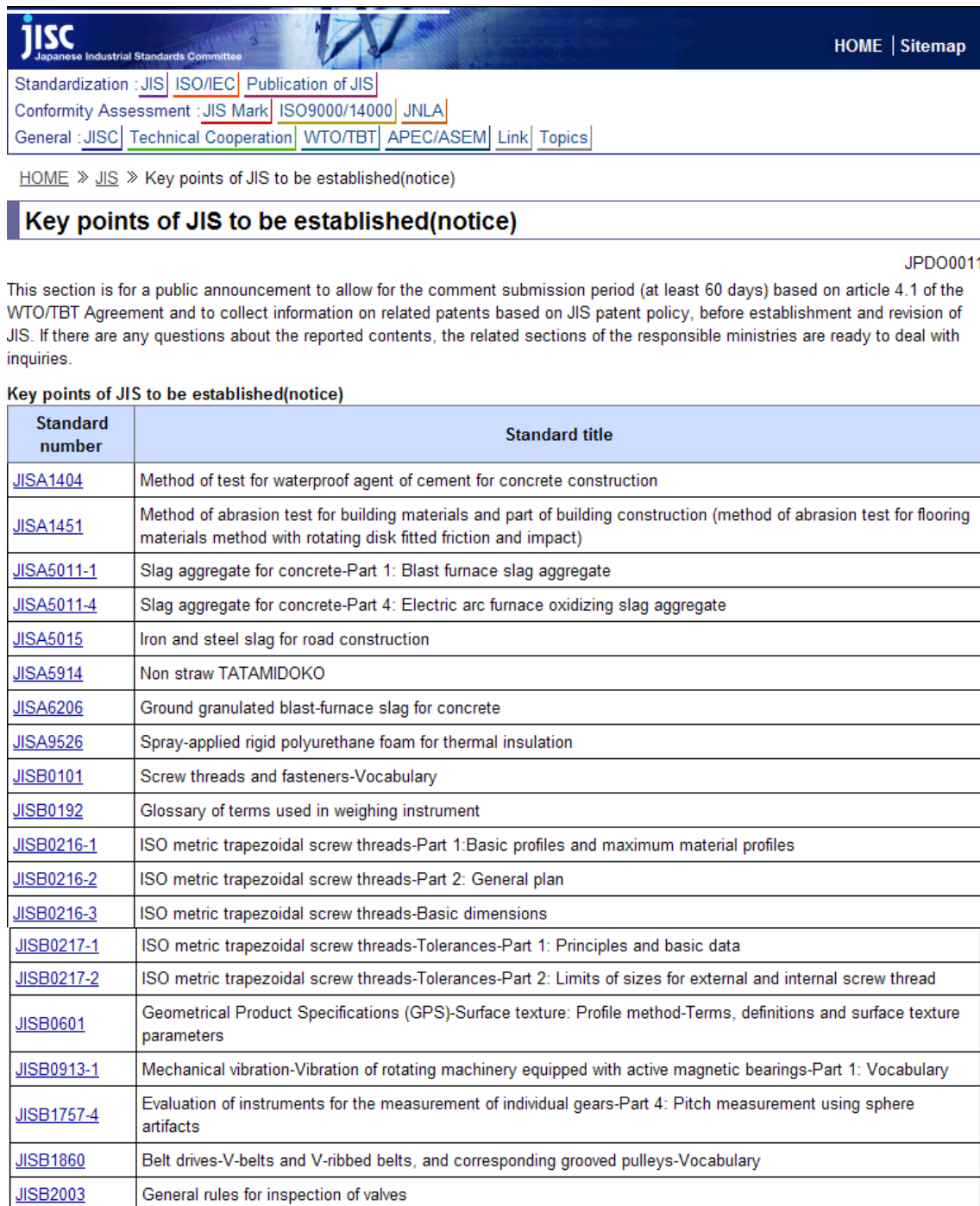
Figure 2: JIS Development Process

4.2. Regarding development of Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS), the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) discloses the work plan for developing JIS to the public and officially announces accepting opinions on the JIS draft, based on the WTO/TBT Agreement Article 4.1, Annex 3 (Code of Good practice).

4.3. The work plan including name, address, developing JIS draft is published on JISC Homepage (in Japanese) at least once a six-month in accordance with the Code of Good Practice, Paragraph J.

4.4. In addition, based on Code of Good Practice, Paragraph L, official announcement of public consultation on the JIS draft is published on JISC HP (both in English and in Japanese). This enables interested stakeholders to allow a period of at least 60 days to submit their comments before Minister in charge finalises JIS. Figure 3 provides an example of publication on English version of JISC HP.

Figure 3 : Example of publication on JISC Homepage



The screenshot shows the JISC homepage with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes the JISC logo (Japanese Industrial Standards Committee) and links for HOME and Sitemap. Below the navigation bar, there are several categories of links: Standardization (JIS, ISO/IEC, Publication of JIS), Conformity Assessment (JIS Mark, ISO9000/14000, JNLA), and General (JISC, Technical Cooperation, WTO/TBT, APEC/ASEM, Link, Topics). A breadcrumb trail indicates the current page: HOME >> JIS >> Key points of JIS to be established(notice). The main heading is "Key points of JIS to be established(notice)" with the identifier JPDO0011. A paragraph explains that this section is for a public announcement to allow for comment submission (at least 60 days) based on article 4.1 of the WTO/TBT Agreement, and to collect information on related patents. It also states that if there are any questions, the responsible ministries are ready to deal with inquiries. Below this is a table titled "Key points of JIS to be established(notice)" with two columns: "Standard number" and "Standard title". The table lists 20 standards, including JISA1404, JISA1451, JISA5011-1, JISA5011-4, JISA5015, JISA5914, JISA6206, JISA9526, JISB0101, JISB0192, JISB0216-1, JISB0216-2, JISB0216-3, JISB0217-1, JISB0217-2, JISB0601, JISB0913-1, JISB1757-4, JISB1860, and JISB2003.

HOME | Sitemap

Standardization : [JIS](#) | [ISO/IEC](#) | [Publication of JIS](#)

Conformity Assessment : [JIS Mark](#) | [ISO9000/14000](#) | [JNLA](#)

General : [JISC](#) | [Technical Cooperation](#) | [WTO/TBT](#) | [APEC/ASEM](#) | [Link](#) | [Topics](#)

HOME >> [JIS](#) >> Key points of JIS to be established(notice)

Key points of JIS to be established(notice)

JPDO0011

This section is for a public announcement to allow for the comment submission period (at least 60 days) based on article 4.1 of the WTO/TBT Agreement and to collect information on related patents based on JIS patent policy, before establishment and revision of JIS. If there are any questions about the reported contents, the related sections of the responsible ministries are ready to deal with inquiries.

Key points of JIS to be established(notice)

Standard number	Standard title
JISA1404	Method of test for waterproof agent of cement for concrete construction
JISA1451	Method of abrasion test for building materials and part of building construction (method of abrasion test for flooring materials method with rotating disk fitted friction and impact)
JISA5011-1	Slag aggregate for concrete-Part 1: Blast furnace slag aggregate
JISA5011-4	Slag aggregate for concrete-Part 4: Electric arc furnace oxidizing slag aggregate
JISA5015	Iron and steel slag for road construction
JISA5914	Non straw TATAMIDOKO
JISA6206	Ground granulated blast-furnace slag for concrete
JISA9526	Spray-applied rigid polyurethane foam for thermal insulation
JISB0101	Screw threads and fasteners-Vocabulary
JISB0192	Glossary of terms used in weighing instrument
JISB0216-1	ISO metric trapezoidal screw threads-Part 1:Basic profiles and maximum material profiles
JISB0216-2	ISO metric trapezoidal screw threads-Part 2: General plan
JISB0216-3	ISO metric trapezoidal screw threads-Basic dimensions
JISB0217-1	ISO metric trapezoidal screw threads-Tolerances-Part 1: Principles and basic data
JISB0217-2	ISO metric trapezoidal screw threads-Tolerances-Part 2: Limits of sizes for external and internal screw thread
JISB0601	Geometrical Product Specifications (GPS)-Surface texture: Profile method-Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters
JISB0913-1	Mechanical vibration-Vibration of rotating machinery equipped with active magnetic bearings-Part 1: Vocabulary
JISB1757-4	Evaluation of instruments for the measurement of individual gears-Part 4: Pitch measurement using sphere artifacts
JISB1860	Belt drives-V-belts and V-ribbed belts, and corresponding grooved pulleys-Vocabulary
JISB2003	General rules for inspection of valves

1. "Degree of correspondence" with International Standards is indicated as follows, based on ISO/IEC Guide 21:1999 (Adoption of International Standards as regional or national standards).

IDT: "identical"

a)The regional or national standard is identical in technical content, structure*1) and wording*2), or b)the regional or national standard is identical in technical content, although it may contain the minimal editorial changes such as misprints*3).

MOD: "modified"

Technical deviations, which are permitted, are clearly identified and explained. The regional or national standard reflects the structure of the International Standard, but changes in structure are permitted provided that the altered structure permits easy comparison of the content of the two standards.

NEQ:"not equivalent"

The regional or national standard is not equivalent to the International Standard in technical content and structure and any changes have not been clearly identified. No clear correspondence is obvious between the regional/national standard and the International Standard.

- Note*1) "Structure" of the guide: Clause 3.9 (of a standard) order of the clauses, subclauses, paragraphs, tables, figures and annexes
- Note*2) "Change in wording" of the guide: Clause 3.8 When adopting an International Standard in one of its official languages, the replacement of single words or phrases in the regional or national standard by synonyms to reflect common language use in the region or country adopting the International Standard. Example: The use of "elevators" for "lifts" in certain countries.
- Note*3) "Editorial change" of the guide: Clause 3.6 (of an International Standard in a regional or national standard) Any permitted change that does not alter the technical content of the standard.

Note: A list of permitted editorial changes is given in 4.2.

Clause 4.2 of the guide

- substitution of decimal point for a decimal comma
- correction of any misprints (e.g. spelling errors) or pagination changes
- deletion of text in one or several languages from a multilingual International Standard
- inclusion of any technical corrigenda or amendments issued to the International Standard
- changes to the title to be consistent with an existing regional or national series
- "substitution of "this regional/national standard" for this International Standard"
- "substitution of "this regional/national standard" for this International Standard"
- inclusion of any regional or national informative material (e.g. informative annexes that do not alter, add to or delete from the provisions of the International Standard). Examples of informative material are advice to users, training guidance or suggested forms or reports
- deletion of informative preliminary material from the International Standard
- changes in wording as defined in 3.8
- addition, for informative purposes, of recalculated values of quantity units where a different measurement system is used in an adopting country

2. The content specified by each standard will be indicated by the index number of International Classification for Standards (ICS) which is specified by ISO. This index number is used also for data exchange by WTO/TBT.

For inquiry, please contact the Standardization Planning Office,
Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau,
METI. (03)3501-1511

4.5. The above is the experiences of Japan's implementation based on Paragraph J and L of the Code of Good Practice upon WTO/TBT Agreement. Japan would like to ask other WTO members to exchange information on their domestic situation regarding compliance with and implementation method of Paragraph J and L of the Code of Good Practice.

4.6. Japan provides a period of at least 60 days for official announcement of accepting opinions on JIS drafts, even where they are identical (IDT) to the International Standards, based on Paragraph L of the Code of Good Practice. However, in light of the fact that, with regard to the technical regulation, WTO/TBT Agreement 2.9 stipulates that Members need not notify nor allow reasonable time for other Members to make comments when proposed technical regulation is in accordance with the relevant international standard, some argue that it would not be necessary to provide the opportunities to submit comments for JIS drafts which are IDT to the International Standards. Therefore, Japan would like to exchange opinions regarding whether or not each member's

standardizing body is also required to provide a period of at least 60 days for official announcement of accepting opinions even for Standards which are IDT to the International Standards.
