

January 24, 2006

Charter of JIS Certification Bodies Association

In Japan, the Industrial Standardization Law was revised in June 2004 in response to the "Implementation Plan for Reform of the Ideal Involvement of Administrative Agencies in Public Interest Corporations (Cabinet decision on March 29, 2002). From October 2005, JIS mark certification is implemented by private certification bodies (Accredited certification bodies) registered by the national government.

JISCBA is working on securing of impartiality and unification of JIS certification based on JIS mark scheme as very important issues. As part of this task, we publish the collection of interpretations on applying the JIS mark scheme.

Under the old JIS mark scheme, the national government has been responsible and authorized to certify the certification. Under the new scheme, private certification bodies are responsible and authorized to certify the certification.

In addition, the overall JIS mark scheme is consistent with international standards. Accredited certification bodies follow the national criteria to maintain the level of certification service above a certain level, and carry out certification service in accordance with their own certification procedures and discretion. For businesses operator wishing to display the JIS mark, the new scheme is highly convenient and has a high degree of freedom since accredited certification body carries out the certification service according to its certification procedure that reflects the certification needs.

On the other hand, in order to provide appropriate services to users of the JIS mark, following activities such as to collect information on the review and revision trends of JIS, to coordinate with industry organizations on technical issues related to certification operations, to ensure the credibility of the scheme etc. are important for certification bodies. These activities require a huge amount of time and cost for each certification bodies. In case these activities are lacking, there is concern that the reliability of the JIS mark scheme as a whole may be compromised due to variations in certification among certification bodies or deterioration in the quality of certification.

Accordingly, accredited certification bodies that carry out JIS mark certification have a duty to further development of the JIS mark scheme and maintain higher reliability by promoting

mutual information exchange, promoting joint activities to solve common problems, and disseminating and enlightening purchasers and users of JIS mark products.

Based on this recognition, we have decided to establish JIS Certification Bodies Association with the purpose of ensuring the reliability, impartiality and uniformity of the JIS Mark scheme and contributing to the dissemination and development of industrial standards through close cooperation between registered certification bodies.

We ask for the understanding, cooperation, and support of all parties concerned.

Founder

Japan Paint Inspection and testing Association

Japan Testing Center for Construction Materials

General Building Research Corporation of Japan

Japan Quality Assurance Organization

Japan Water Works Association

Japan Sewage Works Association

JIC Quality Assurance Ltd.