

When you acquire Japanese forest land, you are required to submit a notification.

– Overview of the Forest Land Ownership Notification System –



For more details, please contact the city hall, town/village office, or the prefectural government (or its local office) in the area where the forest land is located.



Why is notification required?

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If the forest owner is unknown:

1. The government cannot provide advice or guidance to the forest owner.
2. When forestry operators conduct thinning or similar work, they cannot approach owners to consolidate forest plots for more efficient operations.

For these reasons, the Forest Land Ownership Notification System is established under the Forest Act to improve identification of forest owners.

Additionally, from April 2026 (Reiwa 8), the notification form has been revised, and new owners must now provide information such as nationality.

Please note that submitting this notification does not certify or determine legal ownership of the forest land.



In what cases is notification required?

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Regardless of whether you are an individual or a corporation, if you newly acquire forest land* through a sales contract, inheritance, donation, corporate merger, etc., you must submit a post-acquisition notification.

There is no minimum area requirement, so even small plots are subject to notification.

However, if you have already submitted a land transaction notification under the National Land Use Planning Act**, then you do not need to submit this forest land ownership notification.

* Forests subject to regional forest plans established by prefectures. Even if the registered land category differs, land that is forested may still require notification.

** Under the National Land Use Planning Act, post-transaction notification is required when purchasing land above a certain size:

- Urbanization area: 2,000 m²
- Other urban planning areas: 5,000 m²
- Outside planning areas: 10,000 m²

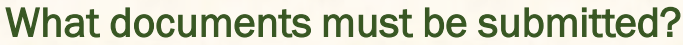


Forest owners must also submit a prior notification to the mayor when felling trees, and obtain authorization from the governor for forest land development exceeding 1 ha (0.5 ha if for solar power installations).

For protected forests, felling and land modification require authorization as well.



For inheritances, even if property division has not been completed, notification must be made within 90 days from the date inheritance begins, as joint ownership among statutory heirs.



1. A map showing the approximate location of the forest land (any map is acceptable).
2. A certified copy of the land registry for the forest land (a copy is acceptable), or documents proving acquisition of rights, such as a sales contract, inheritance division agreement, or a copy of the land title deed.

The Forestry Agency's website provides an overview of the system, the notification form, and support files for completing the form:



What happens if I do not submit the notification?

A If you fail to submit the notification or submit false information, you may be subject to a fine of up to 100,000 yen.

