

Construction Material Recycling Law

As the volume of waste generation increases, waste treatment related problems such as shortage of final landfill sites and improper treatment of wastes have been all the more worsening recently. Construction wastes including concrete blocks generated in construction works, asphalt/concrete blocks and timbers generated in construction works account for 20% of the whole volume of industrial wastes which equals to 20% of total volume of wastes put into final disposal sites, while they account for 70% of the total volume of illegal dumping (FY 2001). Also, it is projected that construction wastes would be increased since the buildings constructed mid-1960s will be demolished and reconstructed in future. In order to address these issues, the Construction Material Recycling Law was enacted in May 2000, aiming at recycling and reuse of prospected construction materials in view of ensuring efficient use of resources.

The Construction Material Recycling Law requires to contractors to sort out and recycle wastes generated in demolition work of a building that the specified construction materials, such as concrete (including pre-cast plates), asphalt/concrete and wood building materials are used or construction work using the specific construction materials and is above certain scale (hereinafter referred to as the “designated construction work”).

The criteria in terms of scale for the obligation of sorting demolition wastes or recycling of the construction wastes are; (i) in case of demolition work of building, the total floor larger than 80 m²; () in case of construction work or enlargement work, the total floor area is larger than 500 m²; () in case of repair work or remodeling, contract fee exceeds 100 million yen; or () in case of demolition work or construction work other than building, contract fee exceeds five million yen.

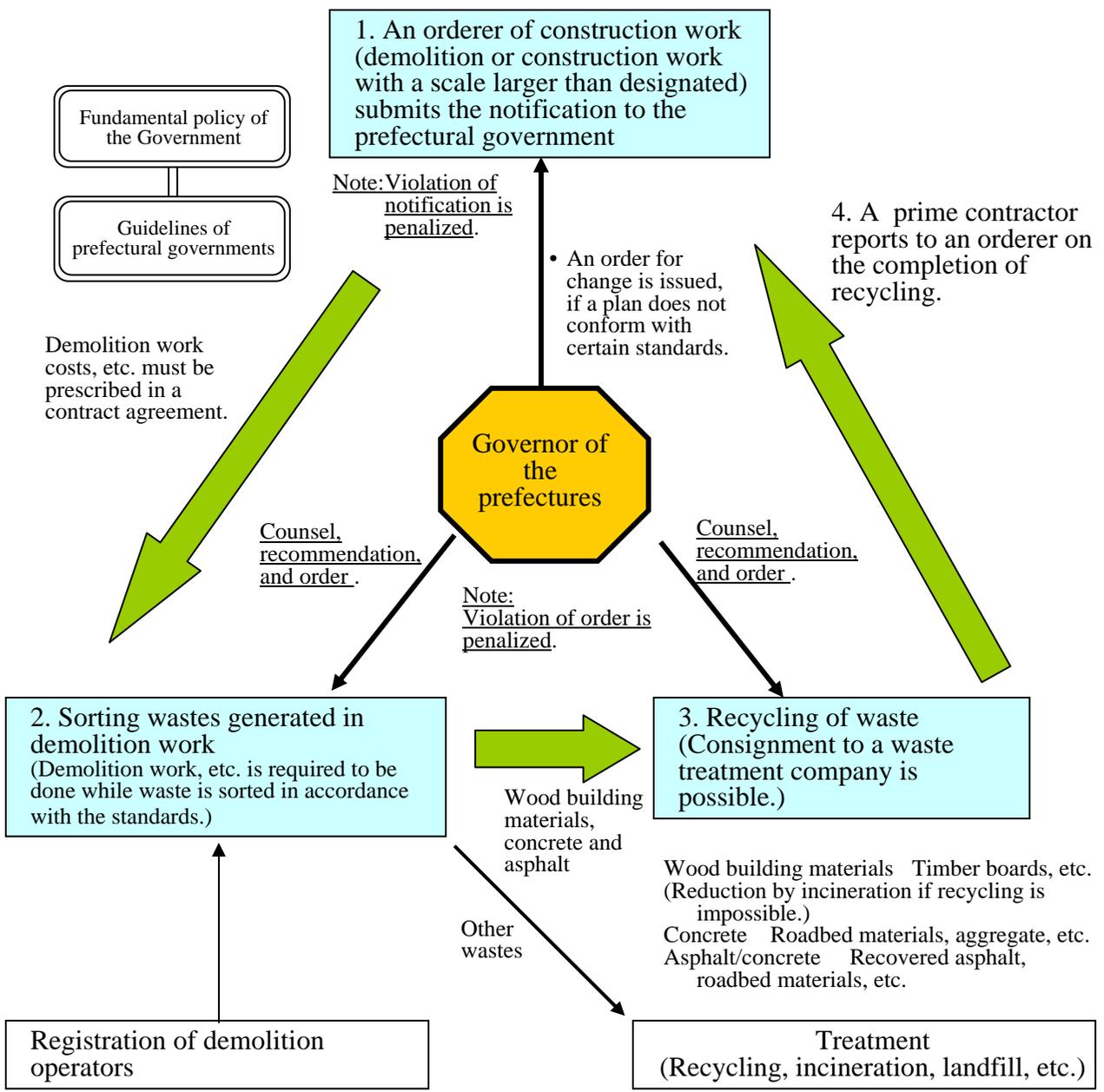
Also, as procedure being enhanced in implementing designated construction work, orderer is obliged to submit a work plan for sorting demolition wastes, etc. to the prefectural governors seven days prior to the launching the work, and in concluding the contract of the designated construction work, expenses for demolition or recycling should be specified.

A registration system of demolition operators to the prefectural governors has been introduced to ensure appropriate demolition works.

In addition to the above, in order to accelerate recycling of construction wastes, the law stipulates that the Minister in charge should develop the fundamental policy of the government which was decided on January 17, 2001. In line with this fundamental policy, roles of concerned parties and fundamental direction were stipulated along with the basic principles of promotion of sorting specified construction materials and recycling of specified construction

material wastes. This policy includes numerical targets including the recycling rate of specified construction materials in 2010 be 95% and final disposal amount of specified construction material wastes generated in works ordered by the Government be zero in 2005.

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Note: Violation of registration is penalized.