

Country report for Japan

85%

Criteria	Question	Weight	Score
Standards & rules	Are standards and rules in place?	10	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. In Japan, standards and rules for the safety of electrical products and installations are in place. JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards) are standards for products, they are harmonized with IEC standards. We have also technical standards for electrical installations, such as wiring rule. Installations can be installed according to Japanese original standard or IEC60364.</p>			
Initial verification	Is an initial inspection required?	10	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Electrical utilities have the obligation of initial verification. Utilities can outsource the verification to specialized institutions, such as ESIA's (electrical safety inspection associations).</p>			
Periodic inspection	Is a periodic inspection required?	7.5	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Electrical utilities have the obligation of periodic verification, every 4 years basically.</p>			
Inspection report	Must there be proof of the inspection by the delivery of an inspection report?	5	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Verification report shall be issued. If any dangerous situations are discovered, the customer shall be immediately warned so that he/she can take the necessary actions to make it safe.</p>			
Inspection for existing installations	Is there a mechanism for inspection of existing installations?	10	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Periodic verification for all low-voltage users' installations is a duty of electric utilities.</p>			
Inspector	Must the person carrying out the inspection be a qualified inspector?	7.5	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Inspector must be qualified. The qualification of inspectors is defined in Electricity Business Act.</p>			
Electrical contractor or installer	Must the electrical contractor or installer be a qualified person?	5	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes.</p>			

Role of utilities	Utilities contractor or installer must be a qualified person according to Governmental Law. The homeowner is NOT allowed to undertake a positive his/herself report.	10	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Utilities only connect the installation after having a positive report.</p>			
Consumer education	Are consumers educated on the dangers of electricity?	5	Partially fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Handover of "safety leaflet" is a part of periodic verification. Addition to that, Government, utilities and ESIA's have education programs for electrical safety. But people's knowledge of safety is not sufficient.</p>			
Regulation	Is regulation in place that imposes standards for electrical installations and initial verification?	5	Fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Regulations that imposes standards for installations and initial verification are in place.</p>			
Labelling and certification	Are products in the market adequately labeled for electrical safety, and is this labeling system understood?	5	Partially fulfilled
<p>Answer: Products in the market should be labeled for electrical safety. But I can not say that people well understand it.</p>			
Role of manufacturers	Do manufacturers actively engage for electrical safety in the marketplace?	5	Partially fulfilled
<p>Answer: Manufacturers and importers have a legal responsibility of compliance with safety standards. But a home-center in Osaka was selling imported 1,623 incompliant products in June 2014. The Government ordered the company to stop selling them.</p>			
Market surveillance	Is there adequate action on market surveillance from the authorities?	15	Partially fulfilled
<p>Answer: Yes. Government is surveying electrical appliances & materials in market. 95 products were incompliant to technical standards in 2014.</p>			