

4 Others

(1) Debt Management Authorities' Business Operations

As COVID-19 has spread throughout the world since early 2020, Japan has plunged into a serious infection situation, forcing the government to issue state of emergency declarations.

As government bonds have been required to be securely and smoothly issued and redeemed even in such a situation, we have implemented such initiatives as the enhancement of backup arrangements to prevent national debt management from being affected.

(Example initiatives implemented so far)

- Developing arrangements to distribute workplaces for officials in charge of auctions and other JGB issuance operations through telework and other measures to reduce their contacts.
- Developing backup arrangements including training of other officials to implement JGB auctions.
- Increasing officials in charge of auctions and other JGB issuance operations to further enhance business arrangements.

(2) A partial modification to the Order Regarding Account Management Institutions

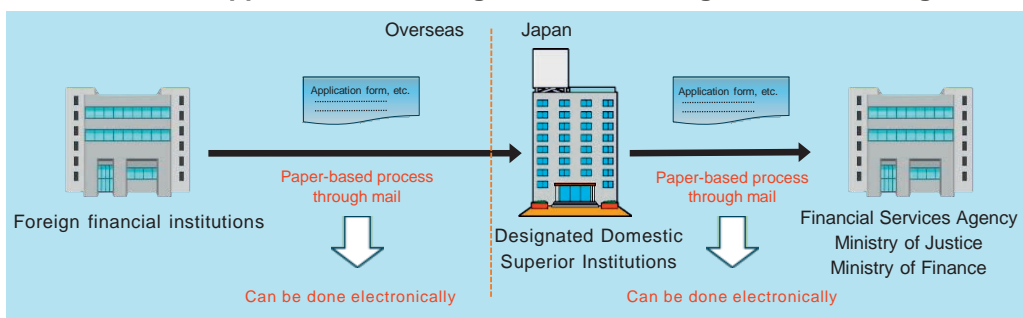
JGBs traded between financial institutions are paperless under the “Act on Book-Entry Transfer of Corporate Bonds and Shares”. JGB transfers are done in the Book-Entry Transfer Account Register managed by the Book-Entry Transfer Institution (the BOJ). Foreign financial institutions that want to handle JGBs for investors can open an account by filing relevant applications with the Commissioner of the Financial Services Agency, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Finance (hereinafter referred to as “competent ministers”) in line with the “Order Regarding Account Management Institutions” and being designated as Account Management Institutions. The same applies to notification of change of trade name, etc. and application for rescission of designation.

Previously, foreign financial institutions mailed in hard copies of application forms and attached documents, and if any such designated application form is not prepared in Japanese, a Japanese translation must be attached and mailed. However, On December 13, 2021, the following two revisions were made.

A. Online applications for designation as a Foreign Account Management Institutions

Currently the Japanese government is engaging in efforts to make administrative procedures available online. Along with the government efforts, the partial modification to the Order Regarding Account Management Institutions allows the foreign financial institution to submit application forms online without mailing in hard copies of application forms.

Fig. 1-30 Illustrated Online applications for designation as a Foreign Account Management Institutions



B. Omission of Japanese translations of English attached documents

The competent ministers were allowed to omit the requirement for Japanese translations of English documents attached to the applications as far as the English documents are easy to understand, with application details clarified.