



China Compulsory Certification



When does the mark apply?

The CCC mark applies to a broad range of **consumer goods, electronic products and industrial products**. Products are listed in the *Catalogue of products subject to compulsory certification*. The list is constantly expanding, but currently contains 23 broad categories.

| Catalogue of products subject to compulsory certification (CNCA 2007) | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Electrical wires and cables | 9. Information technology equipment | 17. Medical devices |
| 2. Switches for circuits, installation protective and connection devices | 10. Lighting appliances | 18. Fire fighting equipment |
| 3. Low-voltage electrical apparatus | 11. Telecommunications terminal equipment | 19. Detectors for intruder alarm systems |
| 4. Small power motors | 12. Motor vehicles and safety parts | 20. Wireless LAN products |
| 5. Electric tools | 13. Motor vehicle tires | 21. Indoor decorating and refurbishing materials |
| 6. Welding machines | 14. Safety glass | 22. Toy products |
| 7. Household and similar electrical appliances | 15. Agricultural machinery | 23. Information security products (CC-IS certificate for Government Procurement) |
| 8. Audio and video apparatus | 16. Latex products | |

* Above list is for reference only and is subject to changes

The broad categories are further broken down into 132 product categories.

There are several ways to find out if your product requires the CCC mark. Using **HS codes**, you can search your product in the **Chinese Customs Handbook**, or search Announcement 60 released in 2002 by the Chinese Certification and Accreditation Authority (CNCA).

The EU Commission has launched the Market Access Database initiative allowing European companies to search tariff and import requirements for third markets, including China. The website allows you to look up product requirements, including CCC, using HS codes: www.madb.europa.eu/.

For a more thorough investigation of the specific requirements that applies to your product, it is necessary to identify which **Chinese National Standards**, also known as GB Standards, apply. The CCC system is based on GB Standards. Most GB standards are harmonised with International Standards but be sensitive to frequently occurring Chinese deviations.

The Standardisation Administration of China (SAC) provides a **national standards enquiry** service searchable by standard number, title, ICS code, etc.

If the GB standards that applies to your product are **mandatory** it is a good indication that your product will require the CCC mark (in some case other marks are required depending on product category).

To learn more about Chinese GB standards please visit our [standardisation section](#).

Certain **spare parts and replacement parts** may also require the CCC mark; this is particularly important for the automotive sector where seat belts, tires, lamps, etc. require the CCC mark separately from the whole product. Similar procedures apply to other product categories.



What are the technical requirements of the CCC mark?

There are essentially two basic requirements for technical conformity of products entering China: **Chinese Standards** and **Implementation Rules**. These regulations define the implementation and certification procedures of the product.

The CCC mark is based on **mandatory Chinese GB standards** applying to the product; even if the GB standard is harmonised with international equivalents, the product will require mandatory testing.

The Chinese Certification and Accreditation Authority (CNCA) has published 47 **Implementation Rules for Compulsory Certification** on its website. These Rules outline detailed technical requirements for each of the 132 products categories. The implementing regulations are in English and free for [download](#).

The China Quality Certification Centre (CQC) has attempted to list national and international equivalent standards applying to CCC product categories. The [list](#) was last updated in 2006 and should be used for reference only!

Electrical and Electronic products – Using Certification Body (CB) Reports

In the case of **electrical and electronic products**, Chinese standards are mostly developed from, or harmonised with, **IEC standards**. However, it is important to note that deviations frequently occur.

China adheres to the **CB scheme** and therefore accepts CB reports. Submitting your CCC applications together with a CB report can significantly speed up the application process, however, type testing is still needed. The CB report must be less than 3 years old and clearly outline Chinese deviations.

For more information on CB reports see [here](#).



How to apply for CCC?

The CCC application procedure can generally be divided into a 6-step process. In summary, the standard operating procedure involves:

1. **Application** – The required documentation is submitted to the competent authorities.
2. **Testing** – A designated test laboratory in China will test a sample of the product.
3. **Factory inspection** - CQC will send representatives to inspect the manufacturing facility. Each factory producing parts for the final exported product needs to be inspected.
4. **Evaluation** – Decision is made if CCC is granted or not.
5. **Product marking** – Marking of product and packaging.
6. **Follow-up factory inspection** - Manufacturing facility needs to be re-inspected by CQC every 12 to 18 months.

1. Application

Completing the CCC application form

The first step in getting your product CCC certified begins by filling in the application form. A number of supporting documents is required for this step but will essentially depend on the functionalities of your product. Your application should usually be filled out in both English and Chinese.

Supporting documentation can include:

- ✓ CCC application form and factory questionnaire for initial factory inspection
- ✓ Product description, including (where applicable):
 - Production flow chart
 - Product photos (front/rear/internal/power supply unit/name plate)
 - Copy of trademark registration in China and overseas (if any)
 - Material list such as information on parts, functions, type of material, supplier, etc.

- Identity declaration for product series/family/group application (if any)
- Circuit diagram/PCB diagram/exploding diagram/block diagram
- List of critical components, including EMC performance
- Copy of the contract between applicant and importer
- ✓ Original declaration of conformity
- ✓ Copy of CB report, including Chinese deviations (where applicable)
 - Remember to include power supply (where applicable)
 - Or reference to CCC licences for accessories such as power cord set or plug/cord/connector, and external/internal power supply
- ✓ Copy of business licence for applicant/manufacturer/factory
- ✓ Product name, labels, user manual, rating or warning labels translated into Chinese
- ✓ Organisation chart of manufacturing facility

It is **ESSENTIAL** that all supporting documentation matches the application. Attention should be paid on providing consistent information with regards to labels and associated documents such as company name, product description, and model number. This is the most common delay in the application process.

If the CQC finds that the application is consistent, they will proceed by issuing a “certification charge notice” and “sampling notice” together with your application number. An invoice will indicate the applying certification fees and, after payment, the CQC will assign the task of testing to one of its affiliated laboratories. All CCC testing laboratories are in China.

After receiving the “sampling notice”, the applicant needs to deliver the samples to the testing laboratory according to the request. Generally, 2 samples are required to be sent to China, however, this may vary according to product.

The test sample needs to be accompanied by the proper information which can cause some confusion, therefore it may be a good idea to seek advice from your freight forwarder. Upon arrival in China, the freight forwarder is required to pick up the test sample and deliver to the testing laboratory.

2. Testing

Having received the sample, the laboratory will notify the CQC and start carrying out investigations into the product’s conformity to Chinese standards and implementation regulations.

Once the evaluation and testing is completed, the laboratory will submit a test report to the CQC for review and approval.

3. The factory inspection

After approving the test report, the CQC will schedule an **Initial Factory Inspection (IFI)** of your manufacturing facility. The IFI is similar to a quality inspection and is required if this is the first time to apply for the CCC certification process.

The IFI is performed by two Chinese inspectors and may take up to a week, however, this may vary according to the number of locations that needs to be certified.

The purpose of the audit is to confirm that the manufacturing facility lives up to Chinese standards for quality management and that the relevant CCC regulations are followed. During the Factory Inspection, the auditors will primarily look at the company's existing quality system.

For the initial inspection, this is always carried out by CQC designated inspectors. The applicant is obliged to cover transportation costs, per diem and man day fees for the inspectors. The basic requirements are stipulated in the "*basic requirements for factory inspection*" available on the [CQC website](#).

The inspectors go through a checklist, in many ways similar to other international quality management audits.

Below is a summary of some of the principle requirements for the audit:

- ✓ The quality management must fulfil the requirements of the CNCA and must be regularly updated.
- ✓ The products to be certified must be the same as the products sent to the test lab.
- ✓ The CCC marking process needs to be documented and procedures should be in place that clearly separate CCC certified products from other products.
- ✓ The factory must have test equipment or ensure that regular external testing is done.
- ✓ A daily functional check is to be performed and records maintained.
- ✓ The responsible staff working in the area of quality management must have appropriate qualifications to perform their daily tasks.
- ✓ Requirements of corresponding GB standards are understood by key staff.
- ✓ A quality plan or equivalent procedure should be established for the specific product.
- ✓ A documented procedure that ensures the appropriate maintenance and application of the CCC mark.

The general guidelines for the IFI are explained in the "*product certification requirements for factory's quality assurance ability*" available from the [CQC website](#).

In cases where discrepancies are found, the manufacturer has 30 days to address any non-compliance issues.

The factory will be assigned a factory ID number if the audit is successful. The factory number can be placed under the CCC logo but this is not mandatory.

4. Evaluation

The factory inspection report, together with the sample test, is submitted to the CQC for final review and evaluation. On the basis of both reports, the CQC will sign and approve the CCC certificate.

5. Product marking

Having been approved for CCC certification, the product must now be marked.

The manufacturer is free to use original authorised CCC stickers purchased directly from CNCA or may submit its own drawings for approval. The dimensions and location of the CCC mark is specified in the “*guide to CQC product certification mark - CQC/PD010-2005*”.

There are 4 designs of the CCC mark depending on type and qualities of the product, for example, the CCC mark can be affixed with an “**S**” – Safety; “**EMC**” – Electro Magnetic Compatibility; “**S&E**” – Safety and EMC or “**F**” – Fire Fighting.

If it is not appropriate to apply the CCC mark directly to the body of the product, it can be affixed to the product package.

6. Follow-up factory inspection

The follow-up inspection is normally carried out every 12 to 18 months and can be assigned to local testing bodies that cooperate with the CQC. The costs of follow-up inspections are therefore significantly lower than the initial inspection.

The CQC maintains the right to conduct unannounced inspections without prior notice. This is rarely done in practice and does not substitute the normal follow-up inspection.

The basic aim of the follow-up inspections is to validate that the manufacturer’s quality assurance system and the certified product continue to meet the requirements of the regulation.

For the normal follow-up inspection, the CQC will notify the manufacturer in advance allowing for the necessary preparations to be made.

Follow-up factory inspections are carried out according to the same guidelines as the IFI inspection, assessing quality systems, record management and product sampling.

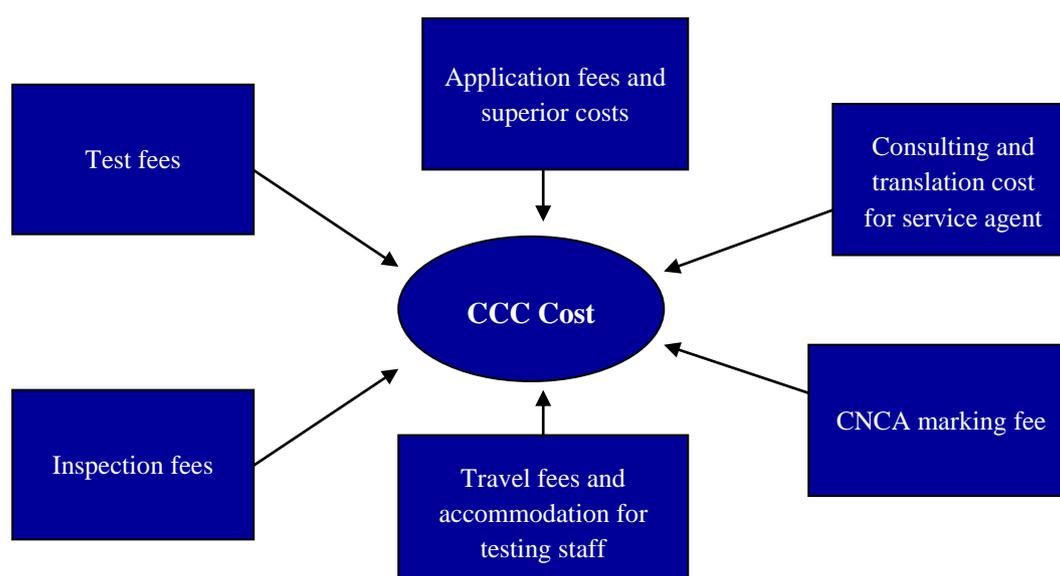
The final assessment report is submitted to the CQC together with results from the product sample. The CQC will review and evaluate, and, if no discrepancies are found, the CCC licence will be continued.

The CCC mark is valid for 5 years. The manufacturer should re-submit the application 90 days before the CCC certificate expires.



What does the mark cost?

The final cost of receiving the CCC licence will depend on the specific product in question, but overall costs will likely follow the same structure as described below:



Roughly, the basic costs of the CCC licence can be divided into *administrative costs* and *service fees*.

Administrative costs

Administration fees represent a flat fee rate for the administrative service and are minor in nature. They usually represent several hundred EUR and are fixed through a central pricing policy. The test fee will depend on the complexity of the product and the nature of the test involved.

In addition, you will be charged an Approval and Registration fee as well as an Approval fee for being authorised to affix the actual CCC mark.

Services fees

Service fees are more costly in nature. They include fees for factory inspections, travel costs, per diem for inspectors, etc. The applicant is responsible for man day fees for inspectors and all their associated costs.

In addition, it is recommended to use a consultant for first time applicants, and, depending on the service required, this can also run up costs. Associated costs can run up to several thousand EUR.

The basic cost can be calculated by the following form, not including travel, per diem or consultant services:

| | Steps | Standard price | Note |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Application | 500 CNY/per application | 1000 CNY translation fee if not in Chinese |
| 2 | Type testing | Depending on Product Type | CNCA publish price list (in Chinese only)* |
| 3 | Factory inspection | 2500 CNY man day fee | Additional cost: Return ticket Per diem |
| 4 | Approval and registration | 800 CNY/per application | |
| 5 | Follow-up inspection | 2500 CNY man day fee | Can be carried out by CQC cooperation partners |
| 6 | Annuity | 100 CNY/per certificate per year | |
| 7 | CCC stickers | From 0.03 to 0.3 CNY per sticker depending on size. Printing rights: 450 CNY/first year, 300 CNY/year thereafter | |

* Product test fee depends on type of product. CNCA publishes the price list on their [website](#) (in Chinese only).
Exchange rate (for reference only): 1 EUR = 9 CNY

Source: *Charging standard for compulsory product certification*



Are there exceptions to the rule?

There are few exemptions to the mandatory CCC mark. In general, products not intended for sale or usage on the Chinese market can be exempted from testing requirement. Exemptions include:

- Products used at exhibitions
- Special purpose products (e.g. military use)
- Personal belongings
- Products imported for R&D or testing purposes
- Products for re-export

Further details of exemptions can be found in **Announcement 8** of the CNCA and in **Article 41 and 42** of the AQSIQ **announcement 117**.

Products and parts eligible for exemption need **Special Exempt Approval**. The application should be submitted to the CNCA with supporting documentation proving above conditions are met.

Documentation requirements

1. Formal application letter, including:
 - a. Introduction and description of your company
 - b. Product characteristics
 - c. Reason and evidence for exemption
 - d. Name, brand name, quantity, model and specification of product
 - e. Self-declaration of safety compliance

2. Copy of the business licence
3. Copy of declaration of compliance with the appropriate safety standards, including test report
4. Copy of import licence (if applicable)
5. Copy of quota certificates (if applicable)
6. Copy of commercial contract
7. If either of the items 4, 5 or 6 cannot be provided, the bill of lading, invoice, official identification or other illustrative documents can replace them.

Exemptions should be applied for at least 1 month in advance and validity of the exemption certificate depends on the conditions of use.



Use of third party services

One of the main obstacles in liaising and coordinating with the Chinese Certification Centres and testing bodies is often the language barrier. The Certification Centres will have very limited knowledge of English and written enquiries by email or fax are often answered with delay. In most cases it will be difficult to call the Certification Centre directly without a good command of Chinese.

Many manufacturers therefore choose to use third party services in obtaining CCC certification. This approach is highly recommended, especially for first time applicants, as it helps speed up the application process and greatly simplifies the involvement of the manufacturer.

Other paths to CCC certification often used by EU manufacturers include:

- Certification through the Chinese distributor, agent, or local representative who coordinates directly with the Certification Centre.
- Manufacturers who have already gained experience with the Chinese certification process handle the certification process in-house often by Chinese speaking staff.

List of important regulations:

CCC Catalogue (2007.13.01)

Announcement 60 [2002 – AQSIQ]

Regulation for Compulsory Product Certification [No. 117, AQSIQ]

Announcement No 1 [2001 - CNCA]

Joint Announcement No. 33 [2001 - AQSIQ]

Announcement No. 8 [2002 - CNCA]

Charging standard for Compulsory Product Certification (CQC Document 2009)

[<http://www.cqc.com.cn/english/published/Charge/ChargeStandards/webinfo/2009/05/1260497023401056.htm>]

Product Certification Requirements for Factory's Quality Assurance Ability (CQC Document)

Basic Requirements for Factory Inspection (CQC/PD021-2005)

[<http://www.cqc.com.cn/english/published/FactoryInspection/IntroductionforFactoryInspection/webinfo/2009/12/1260497022904015.htm>]

Guide to CQC Product Certification Mark (CQC/PD010-2005)

[<http://www.cqc.com.cn/english/published/ApplicationProcess/webinfo/2006/12/1260497023472604.htm>]



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The Centre's range of free services cover:

- Business Development – provision of market information, business and marketing advice
- Legal – legal information, 'ask the expert' initial consultations and practical manuals
- Standards – standards and conformity requirements when exporting to China
- HR and Training – industry and horizontal training programmes
- Access to a service providers directory and information databases
- Hot-desking – free, temporary office space in the EU SME Centre to explore local business opportunities
- Any other practical support services to EU SMEs wishing to export to or invest in China.

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