



China-Britain  
Business Council  
英中贸易协会

### China Compulsory Certification (CCC)

As part of China's commitment for entry into the World Trade Organization, the new Compulsory Product Certification System (CPCS) CCC mark integrates the two previous Chinese compulsory inspection systems, the CCEE approval, which certified product contents for import and export, and the CCIB product safety mark. A one-year transition period began May 1, 2002 and ends April 30, 2003.

After the one-year transition period is over, consumers in China will no longer see the symbols 'CCIB' and 'CCEE' on products, as they will be replaced by 'CCC'.

The China Compulsory Certification (CCC) mark serves as evidence that catalogue-covered products can be marketed, imported or used in China. The certificate holder must abide by the Regulations for Compulsory Product Certification Mark when using the mark.

The government bodies that control the CCC are the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China <http://www.cnca.gov.cn/index.htm> and the National Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine Bureau <http://www.aqsig.gov.cn>. The newly established China National Regulatory Commission for Certification and Accreditation also has a role in overseeing all matters concerning certification and accreditation in China.

The two systems carry different national quality standards. Unfortunately, integration of the two has caused and is continuing to cause a great deal of inconvenience for enterprises, especially for those dealing in both the domestic market and foreign trade.

A fine of RMB 30,000 is imposed if catalogue-covered products are not certified. In addition products must then be certified within a specified time period. Certification marks must be applied if the catalogue products are certified. Otherwise, corrective measures must be completed within a specified period and a fine of RMB 10,000 is imposed. Catalogue-covered product certification requires all or part of the following steps to be taken: acceptance of the application; type testing; factory inspection; sampling and testing; evaluation of the certification results and approval of certification; and follow-up inspection. The CCIB mark was previously required for imports into China for a specific list of commodities. In addition, the CCEE mark (also known as the Great Wall mark) was also required for a specific list of both import and domestic commodities. *NB All other certification schemes in China still apply - including those for telecomms (NAL) and medical (SDA) applications.*

Many of the same procedures such as approval/purchasing of temporary stickers and testing required to be conducted in China are still in place. However, the new system does leave the door open for the acceptance of foreign test labs. Products carrying CCIB or CCEE mark can be marketed or imported under the supervision of the AQSIQ local branches with which such products are filed until 1 May 2003 but from 1st May 2003 all products (domestic and imported) must obtain the certificate for compulsory product certification and apply the CCC mark before they are marketed or imported. The old system marks can still be shown on product packaging provided the new mark is applied along with the old mark.

The following list is the "First catalogue of products subject to compulsory certification" (each product is divided into several categories): electrical wires and cables (5 categories); switches for circuits, installation protective and connection devices (6 categories); low-voltage electrical apparatus (9 categories); small power motors; electric tools (16 categories); welding machines (15 categories); household and similar electrical appliances (18 categories); audio and video apparatus (not including broadcasting service and automobiles) (16 categories); lighting apparatus (2 categories) (not including the lighting apparatus with the voltage lower than 36V); telecommunication terminal equipment (9 categories); motor vehicles and safety parts (4 categories); motor vehicle tires (3 categories); safety glasses (3 categories);

agricultural machinery; latex products; medical devices (7 categories); fire fighting equipment (3 categories); intruder alarm systems; and information technology equipment (12 categories).

Following conversations between CBBC staff in China and various contacts in China, it seems to be extremely difficult to estimate costs or timescales involved in the application without prior knowledge of the product in question. In general, products with simple structures will require less time and money for inspection than those with more complicated make-ups. Once the exact product is known however, the estimations become much easier. The system in fact, appears to be quite transparent.

One way of processing the application for the CCC is to approach an agent in China (several of which are advertised on the Internet) to carry out the application for you. The agents mentioned will present the invoice and receipts of the fees charged by the government and will then charge a commission on top (in some cases, quite a high commission).

The cost charged by the government can vary from RMB 5,000-50,000 and the commission charged by the average agent is around 30-40% of the total cost.

Regarding time frames, product inspection is likely to require 2-6 weeks but an Audit Committee (2-3 people) would visit the manufacturing base to inspect production and this may add slightly to the timescale. The applicant is expected to pay the travel and accommodation expenses of the Audit Committee, arrange visa invitations and pay additional costs of RMB 3,500 per person per day for the Committee's stay outside China.

The following websites contain more information on the CCC:

<http://mhsh.com/ejet/indexejet.htm>

<http://www.cemc.org.cn/>

<http://www.tirt.gov.cn/emc/ccc.htm>

<http://www.chinabusiness.org/wwwboard/gbbusimessages/239.htm>

CBBC suggests that UK companies apply directly for the CCC certificate online at the China Quality Certification Center at <http://www.cqc.com.cn/index-e.htm>. After the online application is submitted, the applicant will receive a request for product samples and the CQCC will arrange inspection of the manufacturing facility. *NB This Website seems to be temperamental but is in English and instructions are easy to follow.*

ASTA Certification Services and BEAB (British Electrotechnical Approvals Board) between them cover the certification of all low voltage electrical equipment such as cables and cords, controls for household appliances, domestic appliances, installation accessories, lighting, measuring equipment, office equipment, breakers, contactors, and other switching equipment, installation protective equipment, safety transformers and power transformers, portable tools, and domestic electronic equipment. They can be contacted at ASTA Certification Services, Tel:+44(0)1788 578435, Email:info@astacertification.com.

TUV International UK can also assist with applications across all product ranges for CCC approval. They can be contacted at: Tel +44 (0)121 634 8000, Email: safety@uk.tuv.com

*NB CBBC has not had any previous dealings with either TUV International or ASTA Certification Services.*

If you have specific questions or would like assistance applying direct, CBBC's UK and China staff can also assist. Please contact Laura Mitchelson on 020 7802 2032 or at [laura.mitchelson@cbbc.org](mailto:laura.mitchelson@cbbc.org)

[www.cbbc.org](http://www.cbbc.org)