

The OEM's Guide to CCC

(China Compulsory Certification)



Exporting products from China has long been a standard practice for OEMs across all industries. The global marketplace has shifted in recent years, and now OEMs are also pursuing opportunities to import goods into Chinese markets.

To do so requires the vast majority of products intended to be imported and/or sold in China to carry the Chinese Compulsory Certification (CCC) mark. **CCC is a conformity assessment system required by the China National Certification and Accreditation Authority (CNCA) for the purposes of preventing deceptive practices and also protecting national security, human health or safety, animal and plant life or health, and the environment.**

CCC Certification Can Take a Year or More.



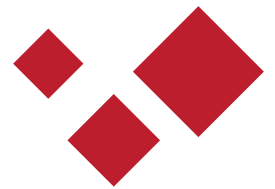
This guide provides a brief overview of the CCC process from application through product marking, and the many benefits of working with a contract manufacturer that knows the process who can help OEMs get to market faster.

Products Requiring CCC

The CNCA publishes and manages a comprehensive list of hundreds of product categories and products that require the CCC mark. It also sets and enforces Guobiao (Chinese for “National Standard”) — commonly known as GB Standards. These standards define the scope, parameters, and prescriptive limits for product testing required for the CCC certification.

This comprehensive list-driven structure lulls many OEMs into a false sense of security about obtaining CCC on their own. The problem, however, is that the lists frequently change and evolve, so there’s no guarantee that the information is current or accurate. Contract manufacturers experienced in CCC are prepared for these constant adjustments, which helps OEMs circumvent difficulties and delays.

Applying for CCC



The following steps have been simplified for illustrative purposes, but **the process surrounding CCC certification can take a year or more from application through final approval.** It is arduous, time-consuming, and — if mishandled — costly:

1. APPLICATION: For CCC consideration, an OEM must submit the following documentation to the CNCA/CQC:

- Application and factory questionnaire (for initial factory inspection)
- A detailed product description that includes:
 - Materials lists
 - Photographs
 - EMC reports
 - Warning labels

2. TESTING: An accredited Chinese laboratory, according to mandatory GB standards, must perform sample testing that includes a full product breakdown and inspection. It’s important to note that during testing, intellectual property rights could be jeopardized as *shanzhai* — product pirating — sometimes occurs during this step.

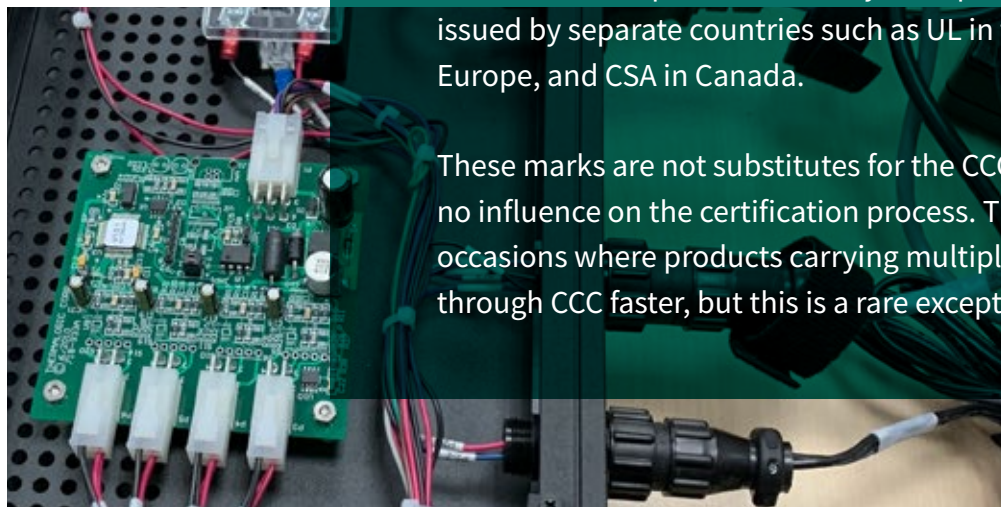
3. FACTORY INSPECTION: CQC-approved Chinese inspectors must conduct factory inspections of every contract manufacturer that makes a component of the final exported product. This is to evaluate the company's current quality systems and to ensure the factory meets Chinese standards for quality management.

It is imperative that the facilities in which the product is manufactured carry CCC certification. Obtaining facility certification requires an on-site audit coordinated between the contract manufacturer and the China Quality Certification Centre (CQC), the largest professional certification unit under the China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC). Both entities are based solely in China, which can present significant logistical challenges for audits, and delays in facility CCC certification.

4. EVALUATION AND MARKING: The documentation, testing results, and inspection reports are evaluated as a whole to determine if CCC certification is granted. Upon approval, the CCC mark is affixed to the product.

5. FOLLOW-UP INSPECTIONS: Any contract manufacturer involved in the production of the CCC-marked product must have its facility inspected and verified by CQC officials every 12-18 months.

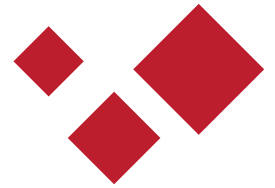
But My Product Already Has Other Certifications...



It's common for products to carry multiple quality or safety marks issued by separate countries such as UL in the United States, CE in Europe, and CSA in Canada.

These marks are not substitutes for the CCC mark and have little to no influence on the certification process. There have been occasions where products carrying multiple marks have moved through CCC faster, but this is a rare exception rather than the rule.

The Consequences of Non-Compliance



Failure to comply with CCC regulations can result in expensive delays or outright losses for OEMs:

- Products may be detained, destroyed — or both — at the border
- Products may be returned to the sender/originating OEM

Further, OEMs will incur significant fines and penalties if:

- A CCC mark is placed on a product that did not pass CCC inspection or was not submitted for certification
- CCC certificates, licenses, or other documentation is not acceptable to customs officers

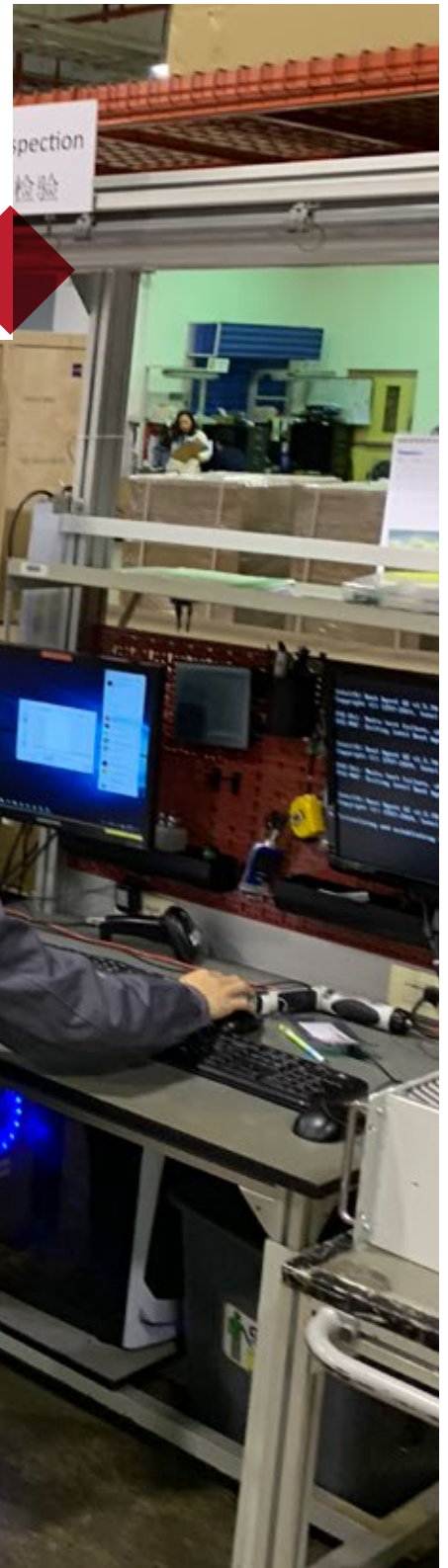
Your Best Advantage: Working With a CCC-Certified Contract Manufacturer

As a U.S.-based CCC-certified contract manufacturer, GMI Solutions is well-versed in helping OEMs establish themselves as importers in the Chinese market. Our demonstrated expertise transcends a thorough knowledge of the CCC process to strategic measures, including:

- Experience with and practical application of CCC requirements during product design/redesign and throughout the certification process
- Pre-existing relationships with the CQC, China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC), and the CNCA
- A CCC-certified facility located in Shanghai, China, and the benefits thereof:
 - Communication in Native Chinese
 - Close proximity to the wholly China-based CQC which aids in expediting required inspections
 - U.S. quality management system to help protect against intellectual property theft
 - Dual production capabilities under a single SKU (in conjunction with GMI's facility in the United States)



Contact GMI for more on CCC certification and how we can help you prosper in the global marketplace.



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