China Compulsory Certification (CCC) Exemption

The China Compulsory Certification (CCC) applies to 132 broad product groups, especially automotive parts, electronic products and IT products. For manufacturers planning to export product to China that fall within the list of CCC product scope, compliance is mandatory. The process of obtaining the CCC mark includes product testing in China, a factory inspection by Chinese auditors at the manufacturing plant, and follow up factory inspection to maintain CCC mark validity.

On occasion, when the commodity classification or name of product is similar to a good subject to CCC, China Customs will request CCC marking when none is required. This scenario does not require an exemption, but rather that the importer provide detailed product information such as a product presentation, manual, test reports, declaration of conformity, invoice and bill of delivery to the local CIQ office (local China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau). CIQ will provide a declaration that the product does not need a CCC mark, usually within one week. This document is then provided to customs officials for normal clearance.

There are, however, limited cases where goods subject to CCC mark requirements may qualify for an exemption. An exemption request must be filed by the importer and requires careful application prior to shipping. It is not an encouraged nor straightforward process, but these general guidelines can help assess whether it is in your company’s interest to pursue an exemption. The U.S. Commercial Service encourages following up with a professional service provider for clarification.

CCC Exemption Conditions
Two announcements issued by China’s Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) address exemptions under certain specialized circumstances (Announcement No. 3, 2005 and No. 38, 2008):

- Products for scientific purposes and product testing
- Products to be displayed at trade fairs
- Products to build a production line
- Products processed in China and, as part of a larger product, exported again
- Spare parts to be used by the consumer
- Small volume exemption under specific preapproved circumstances

Exemption eligibility typically applies to the import of a small amount of products with the eligible amount varying by product group. Application is made to the local CIQ office by the importer, and is usually required for each shipment. Product tests can be requested. CIQ review of the exemption request can last from a few days to several weeks. Exemption application is especially well suited for a small amount of industrial spare parts shipped for maintenance or for building a production line in China.

More information and useful resources:

- For general CCC mark information and resources, click here
- For the list of products that require a CCC mark by HS# click here, and by product groups, click here.
- To find out how to complete the CCC exemption application, click here.
- List of FAQ on CCC exemptions, click here.
- Find here the official CNCA CCC exemption announcements No. 3 and No. 38.

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