

Amendments to the Inspection Requirements for Fire-retardant Construction Materials

By the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI), Ministry of Economic Affairs

Background:

1. With a view to enhancing the performance of fire-retardant construction materials, which are currently subject to mandatory inspection, to protect consumers, the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) is updating the inspection standards for fiber cement boards, gypsum boards, cement bonded wood-wool and flake boards, hard fiberboards, insulation fiberboards, fiber reinforced cement sidings, fiber reinforced cement boards, regenerated fiber cement boards and sound absorbing materials to their current versions, published in 2017.
2. The BSMI is adopting the procedure of Type-Approved Batch Inspection (TABI) in place of Monitoring Inspection to speed up customs clearance. The alternative procedure of Registration of Product Certification (Modules II+IV, II+V, or II+VII) is still available for business operators to choose depending on their needs.
3. Magnesium oxide boards, perlite boards and rock wool sheathing boards are to be removed from the mandatory inspection scope from 1 November 2022.

Date of implementation: 1 November 2023

Products (HS/CCCN codes) covered and their applicable inspection standards: (changes made are underlined)

Description of Goods	Inspection Standards	Inspection Schemes	Reference C.C.C Code (the first digits are the same as HS Code)
fiber cement boards (<u>above 4mm</u>)	CNS 3802: <u>2017</u>	Type-Approved Batch Inspection or RPC Scheme (Modules II+IV, II+V, II+VII)	6811.82.00.00.8E
cement bonded wool and flake boards (<u>above 15mm</u>)	CNS 9456: <u>2017</u>		6808.00.00.00.2A
hard cement bonded wood and flake boards (<u>above 12mm</u>) and normal cement bonded wood and flake boards (<u>above 25mm</u>)	CNS 9456: <u>2017</u>		6808.00.00.00.2B
fire-retardant hard fiberboards (<u>above 2.5mm RN-HB, RS-HB, DI-HB, and above 5mm DE-HB</u>)	CNS 9907: <u>2017</u>		4411.92.10.00.2 4411.92.90.00.5
fire-retardant insulation fiberboards (<u>above 10mm T-IB and above 9mm S-IB, A-IB</u>)	CNS 9911: <u>2017</u>		4411.94.10.00.0B 4411.94.90.00.3B
<u>decorative exterior panel of fiber reinforced cement sidings (above 14mm)</u>	CNS 11699: <u>2017</u>		6811.82.00.00.8G
calcium silicate boards (<u>above 5mm 0.8 Type a, above 4mm 1.0 Type a, and above 12mm Type c</u>)	CNS 13777: <u>2017</u>		6811.82.00.00.8B
slag gypsum boards (<u>above 5mm</u>)	CNS 13777: <u>2017</u>		6811.82.00.00.8C
regenerated fiber cement boards (<u>above 4mm</u>)	CNS 14890: <u>2017</u>		6811.82.00.00.8F
dressed rockwool boards for acoustic use (<u>9-20mm</u>)	CNS 15967: <u>2017</u>		6806.90.00.00.5A

Gypsum boards (above 9mm GB-R, GB-S, GB-R-H, GB-D-H, and above 9.5mm GB-D, GB-S-H, GB-NC, and above 12mm GB-F)	CNS 4458: 2017		6809.11.00.00.8A 6809.19.00.00.0
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Description of the two kinds of conformity assessment procedures

1. Registration of Product Certification (RPC) Scheme: Modules II+IV, II+V, or II+VII

For product subject to Modules II+IV, II+V, or II+VII procedures, not only the products are required to be type-tested (Module II) by the BSMI or BSMI-designated testing laboratories, but the quality management systems of the production premises must be audited under Module IV (Full Quality Management System), Module V (Production Quality Management System) or Module VII (Factory Inspection).

For Module IV and Module V, a registration certificate in accordance with the CNS 12681 (ISO 9001) is required to be obtained from certification bodies recognized by the BSMI. As for Module VII, a factory inspection report issued by the BSMI or BSMI-recognized factory inspection bodies is needed.

In addition, a declaration of conformity-to-type is also required to ensure that the mass-produced commodities are in conformity with that shown in the type-test report.

After being certified and registered by the BSMI, products will be allowed to use the Commodity Inspection Mark with the letter 'R' and the identification number given by the BSMI. Additionally, these products can clear the customs directly without any further inspection if not being sampled by RPC border check procedures. The application fee and annual fee for RPC are both NT\$5,000 (about US\$170) for each certification, and a RPC certificate is valid for 3 years. If there are any serial products, an extra NT\$3,000 (about US\$100) of application fee will be charged for every application in each certification. The fees for type testing vary by products and depend on the fee policies of the testing laboratories.

2. Type-Approved Batch Inspection (TABI) Scheme

Under this scheme, manufacturers or importers shall have their products type-tested by BSMI or BSMI-designated testing laboratories, and then file an application for type approval with the BSMI or its branches.

After manufacturers or importers have obtained Type Approval Certificates, they are required to file an application for batch inspection with the BSMI each time before their products are transported out of the production premises or arrive at the port of entry. The BSMI will then perform inspection with simplified procedures. Additional samples may be required for further testing if it is deemed necessary.

The application fee for a type approval is NT\$3,500, and a type approval certificate is generally valid for three years.

Locations to apply for type testing:

BSMI, its Branches (Keelung Branch, Taichung Branch or Kaohsiung Branch), or BSMI-designated testing laboratories.

Time required for Registration of Product Certification:

14 working days. (not including the time for corrective actions by the applicant due to deficiencies in the documents or samples. An extra 7 working days may be required for additional tests)

Related requirements:

1. The inspection standards of the commodities listed in the table shall be the version published in this announcement. If any updated version is available, the BSMI will publish the implementation date of the updated version in further announcements.
2. The C.C.C. Codes listed in the table are used for reference only. Products listed shall still comply with the requirements before entering into the market, even though their C.C.C. Codes are identified differently by the Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance or Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs.