

Proposal for Legal Inspection Requirements for Water filters (purifiers)

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

Introduction:

The BSMI received reports that dichloromethane exceeding the limit value of “Drinking Water Quality Standards” was found in the drinking water processed by energy water machines, a kind of water filter, posing risk to human health. With a view to protecting consumers from relevant hazards, the BSMI proposes to add water filters (purifiers) to the mandatory inspection scope. The inspection standards are “Technical specification for water quality testing of drinking water from water filters (purifiers) commodities” for water quality, CNS 60335-1 for safety and CNS 13783-1 for EMC. The conformity assessment procedure will be Registration of Product Certification Scheme (Module II+III) or Type-approved Batch Inspection.

The testing items required by “Technical specification for water quality testing of drinking water from water filters (purifiers) commodities” include 9 metal elements and 15 volatile organic compounds.

Category	Items
Metal elements	Arsenic, Lead, Selenium, Total chromium, Cadmium, Barium, Antimony, Nickel, Mercury.
Volatile organic compounds	Trichloroethene; Carbon tetrachloride; 1,1,1-Trichloroethane; 1,2-Dichloroethane; Vinyl chloride; Benzene; 1,4-Dichlorobenzene; 1,1-Dichloroethene; Dichloromethane; 1,2-Dichlorobenzene; Toluene; Xylenes; Cis-1,2-Dichloroethene; Trans-1,2-Dichloroethene and Tetrachloroethene.

Proposed date of implementation: 1 July 2024

Scope of covered products:

Description of Goods	Inspection Standards	C.C.C. Code (the first 6 digits are the same as HS Code)(For reference)	Conformity Assessment Procedures
Water Filter (purifier) (inspection scope: those using filter materials to continuously filter tap water for drinking, exclusive of full house filtration. For the product requires power connection: rated voltage not exceeding 250V AC)	1. Technical specification for water quality testing of drinking water from water filters (purifiers) commodities; and 2. For the product requires power connection: CNS 60335-1(2014) and CNS 13783-1(2013).	8421.21.10.00.8 8421.21.90.00.1	RPC Scheme (Modules II+III) or TABI Scheme

Description of the two kinds of conformity assessment procedures

1. Registration of Product Certification (RPC) Scheme: Modules II+III

Under the II+III combination of modules used in this scheme, domestic manufacturers or importers must have their products type-tested in advance (Module II) by the BSMI or BSMI-designated testing laboratories before applying for registration of their products. Manufacturers or importers will also be required to ensure by declaration (Module III, conformity-to-type declaration) that all products made at their manufacturing facilities or imported are in conformity with the prototypes submitted for type-test at Module II stage. The conformity-to-type declaration shall be drawn up by the manufacturer or the authorized local representative, declaring that the mass-produced products comply with the prototype as 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 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\$102) 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 procedure, manufacturers or importers shall have their products type-tested by the BSMI or the BSMI-designated testing laboratories, and file an application for Type Approval to the BSMI or its branches.

After manufacturers or importers obtain a Type Approval certificate, they are required to file an application for batch inspection to the BSMI each time before their products are released from the production premises or arrive at the port of entry. The BSMI will then review the application and the related documents while additional samples may be required for further testing if it is deemed necessary.

After the products have passed the inspection, they will be allowed to use the Commodity Inspection Mark with the letter 'T' and the identification number given by the BSMI. The application fee for a Type Approval is NT\$3,500, and a Type Approval certificate is valid for 3 years. The fees for type testing vary by products and depend on the fee policies of the testing laboratories.

*Further information on the two schemes can also be found on the BSMI website:

<https://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/lp?ctNode=9768&CtUnit=4132&BaseDSD=7&mp=2>

Locations to apply for Registration of Product Certification:

The BSMI or its branches.

Time required for Registration of Product Certification:

14 working days. (This period does not include the time for corrective actions by the applicant due to deficiencies in the documents or samples. Extra 7 working days may be required if additional tests are required.)

Related requirements:

1. National deviation: For the product requires power connection, the supply cords shall at least comply with CNS 15767-1 "Plugs and socket-outlets for household and similar purposes – Part 1: General requirements." Class 0 structure does not be allowed.
2. CNS 60335-1, CNS 13783-1 and item 1 of the related requirements is not applicable to water filters (purifiers) with the following specifications:
 - (1) powered by AC to DC adaptor, of which the output voltage does not exceed 42V, and which is certified under RPC or TABI scheme in accordance with IEC 61558-1, IEC 61558-2-16 and related inspection standards on EMC;
 - (2) powered only by primary batteries; or
 - (3) powered only by three-phase system.
3. "To continuously filter tap water" means the processing of tap water, as defined in Article 3 of "Drinking Water Management Act," on a continuous basis via the connection to the pipes or faucets. "Full house filtration" means a type of water filter that uses filter materials to filter water for all water usage in the whole household, including washing, drinking and etc.
4. Upon the date of announcement of this measure, applications can be made to the BSMI for RPC certification. When the BSMI completes the review procedure and approves the application, a certificate will be issued and valid for 3 years.
5. The C.C.C. Codes listed in the table are used for reference only. The commodities 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.
6. 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 shall publish the implementation date of the updated version in further announcements.
7. Commodities with combined types or multifunctional products shall comply with the respective inspection standards and the conformity assessment procedures of RPC scheme.