Proposal for Amendments to the Legal Inspection Requirements for Fire-retardant Construction Materials

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

Background:

The standards used for testing and inspection of calcium silicate boards, slag gypsum boards, fiber cement boards, regenerated fiber cement boards, decorative exterior panel of fiber reinforced cement sidings, cement bonded wood-wool boards, cement bonded wood-flake boards and gypsum boards have been revised. The BSMI proposes to adopt the revised standards to ensure that such products continue to meet applicable safety requirements. In addition, to ensure consistency, the BSMI also proposes to revise the inspection procedure for wallpapers (coverings) from Monitoring Inspection to Type-Approved Batch Inspection (TABI). The alternative procedure of Registration of Product Certification (Modules II+III) remains available for business operators to choose depending on their needs.

Proposed date of implementation: 1 July 2027

Scope of covered products (HS/CCCN codes) covered and their applicable inspection standards:

Description of Goods	Inspection Standards		Conformity Assessment Procedures	C.C.C. Code (the first 6 digits are the same as HS Code) (For reference)
	Updated	Superseded		
Calcium silicate boards (Inspection scope: above 12mm 0.2 and 0.5 Type c, above 5mm 0.8 Type a, above 4mm 1.0 Type a)	CNS 13777: 2024	CNS 13777: 2017	Type Approved Batch Inspection or Registration of Product Certification (Modules II+IV, II+V, or II+VII)	6811.82.00.00.8B
Slag gypsum boards (Inspection scope: above 5mm)				6811.82.00.00.8C
Fiber cement boards (Inspection scope: above 4mm)	CNS 3802: 2024	CNS 3802: 2017		6811.82.00.00.8E
Regenerated fiber cement boards (Inspection scope: above 4mm)	CNS 14890: 2024	CNS 14890: 2017		6811.82.00.00.8F
Decorative exterior panel of fiber reinforced cement sidings[class D] (Inspection scope: above 14mm)	CNS 11699: 2024	CNS 11699: 2017		6811.82.00.00.8G
Cement bonded wood-wool boards (Inspection scope: above 15mm)	CNS 9456: 2024	CNS 9456: 2017		6808.00.00.00.2A
Cement bonded wood-flake boards (Inspection scope: above 12mm HF and above 25mm NF)				6808.00.00.00.2B

Gypsum boards (Inspection scope: 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: 2024	CNS 4458: 2017		6809.11.00.00.8A 6809.19.00.00.0
Dressed rockwool boards for acoustic use(Inspection scope: above 9mm and under 20mm)	CNS 15967: 2017			6806.90.00.00.5A
Fire-retardant hard fiberboards(Inspection scope: above 2.5mm RN-HB, RS-HB, DI-HB, and above 5mm DE-HB)	CNS 9907: 2017			4411.92.10.00.2 4411.92.90.00.5
Fire-retardant insulation fiberboards(Inspection scope: above 10mm T-IB and above 9mm A-IB, S-IB)	CNS 9911: 2017			4411.94.10.00.0B 4411.94.90.00.3B
Wallpapers (coverings) (Inspection scope: claiming to be incombustible or with fire-retardant, flame-retardant related performance.)	BSMI order No.10020005310 dated 18 May 2011, revising the ”Provisional Specifications for the fire-retardant performance of fire-retardant wall or ceiling coverings”		Type Approved Batch Inspection or Registration of Product Certification (Modules II+III)	3918.10.90.90.5B 3918.90.90.00.7B 3920.49.10.20.8B 4814.20.00.00.4B 4814.90.00.20.5B 4814.90.00.90.0B 5905.00.10.00.4B 5905.00.90.00.7B

Description of the two kinds of conformity assessment procedures

1. **Type-Approved Batch Inspection (TABI) Scheme**
   Under this scheme, manufacturers or importers are required to have their products undergo type testing by the BSMI or by designated testing laboratories recognized by the BSMI, and to submit an application for Type Approval to the BSMI or its branches.

   After obtaining a Type Approval Certificate, manufacturers or importers are required to apply to the BSMI for batch inspection each time before the products are released from the production premises or arrive at the port of entry. The BSMI will then review the application and supporting documents, and may require additional samples for further testing where necessary.

   Once the products have passed inspection, they will be allowed to use the Commodity Inspection Mark, which is comprised of a graphic symbol with an identification number. The identification number shall consist of the Roman letter ‘T’ and a designated code (five digits) given by the BSMI. The application fee for a Type Approval is NT$3,500, and the certificate remains valid for three years. The fees for type testing vary by products and are determined in accordance with the fee schedule of the relevant testing laboratories.

2. **Registration of Product Certification (RPC) Scheme: Modules II+III, II+IV, II+V, or II+VII**
   Under the RPC scheme, a combination of modules is applied to ensure that products comply with the applicable inspection standards at both the design and product stages. Module II requires products to undergo type testing by testing laboratories designated by the BSMI. In addition, the production premises must undergo assessment to ensure that products manufactured at those premises conform to the type-tested prototypes submitted under Module II. Depending on the applicable procedure, the assessment may cover the declaration of conformity-to-

type under Module III, the full quality management system under Module IV, the production quality management system under Module V, or factory inspection under Module VII.

For Module III, manufacturers or importers are required to ensure by declaration that all products made at their manufacturing facilities are in conformity with the prototypes submitted for type testing in Module II. For Module IV and Module V, a registration certificate issued in accordance with CNS 12681, which is equivalent to ISO 9001, must be obtained from a certification body recognized by the BSMI. For Module VII, a factory inspection report issued by the BSMI or a BSMI-recognized factory inspection body is required.

In addition, a declaration of conformity-to-type is also required to ensure that mass-produced commodities conform to the types specified in the type-test report.

Once a product has been certified and registered by the BSMI, it will be allowed to use the Commodity Inspection Mark, which is comprised of a graphic symbol with an identification number. The identification number shall consist of the Roman letter 'R' and a designated code (five digits) given by the BSMI. Unless selected by RPC border checks, such products can clear customs directly without any further inspection. The application fee and annual fee for RPC are both NT$5,000 per product type, and an RPC certificate is valid for three years. If there are any serial products, an extra NT$3,000 is charged for each type in a series. The fees for type testing vary by products and are determined in accordance with the fee schedule of the relevant testing laboratories.

Locations to apply for type testing:
The BSMI, Keelung Branch, Taichung Branch, Kaohsiung Branch of the BSMI, or BSMI-designated testing laboratories.

Locations to apply for Type Approval or Registration of Product Certification:
The BSMI or its branches.

Time required for Registration of Product Certification:
Fourteen working days (The period pending submission of supplementary documents or samples shall not be included in the calculation. In cases where samples are selected for testing, an additional seven working days shall be added after the samples are delivered.)

Related requirements:

1. The inspection standards of the listed products shall be based on the version specified in this announcement. Where a new or updated version is issued, the BSMI shall announce its implementation date in a separate notice.

2. The C.C.C. Codes listed in the table are for reference only. Where a listed product is determined by the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance or the International Trade Administration of the Ministry of Economic Affairs not to fall within the listed reference C.C.C. Code, the product shall nevertheless complete the applicable inspection procedures before being placed on the market.

Others:
Please refer to the "Operation Directions Governing the Inspection of Fire-retardant Construction Materials" for more detailed explanation about the processes.