

RADIO SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT



People's Republic of China (Free Trade Agreement)

China – New Zealand Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Agreement

China and New Zealand have signed an agreement applying to Electrical and Electronic goods traded between them as a part of New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China.

Overview

This agreement applies to specified types of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) that is regulated in China under the CCC system. The agreement applies to EMC compliance.

The specific products covered by the agreement are listed in the annexes to the agreement. (Note: the 'general' section of each category of the annex sets out the criteria applying to all products listed in that category).

The agreement is based on Risk Management principles and includes aspects of inter-regulatory co-operation targeted at improving compliance.

The agreement differs from most common forms of agreement in that:

- It embodies the Equivalence principles of the WTO as far as practical, given the two participant's Regulatory infrastructures (It can be compared in some aspects to the TIMRA in this regard);
- It is not symmetrical (It does not apply the same compliance verification criteria to products traded in either direction); It takes particular advantage of the strengths of China's domestic compliance infrastructure.
- It uses international Standards to address the accreditation complexities created by the different languages involved.
- It is not a testing or certification agreement, applying the importing country's Standards, like the New Zealand - EU or New Zealand - Singapore agreements.
- It contains features specifically designed to support and enhance Regulatory outcomes in both countries.

Like other agreements, not only does it improve speed to market, lower compliance costs, but it also further reduces duplicate testing and accreditation requirements.

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Products destined for China

The agreement allows New Zealand manufacturers to obtain an authorisation to place the Chinese Certification system CCC mark on their products through services provided by the New Zealand conformance infrastructure. This includes the testing of product samples, issuing of certification, and factory inspection.

Products are tested and certified (against IEC Standards and specified variations to those Standards as set out in the annexes to the agreement). Without the agreement products would otherwise be required to comply with China's own domestic Standards in Chinese.

The agreement commits China to provide all the procedural documentation in English when required.

The agreement establishes [IANZ](#) and [JAS-ANZ](#) as the accreditation bodies for the certification services and couples them to the Chinese infrastructure to achieve any necessary product and process registrations.

Products destined for New Zealand

The agreement allows Chinese manufacturers to obtain certification recognised as equivalent to an approval by the secretary for a declared article, or recognised as being compliant with the Regulations for a supplier declaration item through the Chinese Regulatory and conformance infrastructure.

Products are certified through the CCC scheme in China against relevant Chinese (GB) Standards and deviations from those Standards as set out in the annexes to the agreement, thus applying the full strengths of the CCC system to products destined for New Zealand.

Compliant products are entitled to bear a CCC mark modified by the addition of a New Zealand indicator.

Exchange of information and enforcement

The agreement commits both participants to share information regarding compliance problems encountered within their respective markets relating to the types of products covered by the agreement and also binds both parties to carry out enforcement activities on suppliers who supply products, or documentation, that contravenes the agreement. The compliance pathways applied through the agreement (e.g. GB based compliance assessments for products destined for New Zealand) lead to mutual benefits from surveillance and other enforcement activity information interchange, and co-operation, by increasing the relevance of one market's information to the other.

The agreement seeks to increase compliance through co-operation between the two country's Regulatory agencies.

Benefits for New Zealand

This agreement is the first arrangement that allows full approval to apply the CCC mark to be given outside of China without the direct involvement of the Chinese Regulatory infrastructure.

The agreement is expected to improve access to New Zealand manufacturers, and improve the compliance of products supplied into the New Zealand marketplace.

The benefits begin through the immediate improved access to New Zealand's requirements in a form relevant to the Chinese conformance infrastructure and extend to the ability to apply sanctions to manufacturers in China who disregard New Zealand's requirements.

In these respects this agreement, through its innovative structure, represents a win – win situation for the New Zealand economy. While the process of negotiating the agreement has also provided a significant learning experience and commitment to ongoing co-operation to both country's Regulatory and conformance agencies.

Further information, including the full text of the agreement, can be obtained from the [China – New Zealand FTA website](#).