



RITTAL GmbH & Co. KG
Auf dem Stützelberg
D-35745 Herborn
☎ +49(0)2772 505-0
☎ +49(0)2772 505-2319
✉ info@rittal.de
🌐 www.rittal.com

CCC (China Compulsory Certification) — information regarding the import of Rittal air-conditioning equipment to the PR China

Dear Rittal customer,

We frequently receive inquiries regarding the subject of CCC certificates for our products in connection with their import to the People's Republic of China. Often, the local customs authorities say that a certificate is a necessary condition for import and in this way the customs clearance process is prolonged which causes additional expenditure. We write this information letter to tell you why Rittal does not certify its products according to the CCC and how you can avoid problems with customs clearance when importing Rittal products to the PRC.

What stands CCC for?

CCC is the abbreviation of *China Compulsory Certification*. It is binding on Chinese and international manufacturers alike and requested when importing products covered by the procedure. The purpose of the CCC certificate is to ensure compliance with the Chinese product standards (Guobiao, GB, "National Standard") which has to be proven by means of a certification procedure and the certificate has to be kept valid by means of regular audits of the certified organisation.

CCC primarily applies to products which are used in households, road transport, fire protection and health care systems or may enter food, drink or tobacco. In the group "Household and Similar Use Appliances", air-conditioners and fans for use in households are subjected to CCC requirements. Hardly any goods for use in production in industry, trade and infrastructure are covered by the CCC. However, Rittal products are designed especially for this "industrial" segment. Accordingly, Rittal does not certify its products to CCC because clearly the use as intended of our products is not covered by the scope of CCC.

CCC upon import

At the moment, proof of CCC compliance for imports to China is required for about 360 groups of products registered in the internationally harmonised customs tariff number system (Harmonised System, HS code). The HS code is a 10-digit number classifying groups of products, with only the first six digits being globally harmonised. Apart from the customs tariff of a group of products, the HS code also indicates import restrictions such as the CCC. The requirement to prove CCC compliance is linked to the full HS code, a differentiation between the individual variants within a product group being made only by the last four digits of the HS code which are defined at the national level. If, for example, only

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RITTAL GmbH & Co. KG, Herborn, HRA 6126, Amtsgericht Wetzlar

Persönlich haftend: RITTAL Management GmbH, Schwende

Geschäftsführung: Dr.-Ing. Karl-Ulrich Köhler (Vorsitzender), Hans Sondermann, Dr. Thomas Steffen, Andreas Huck, Carsten Röttchen



the first six digits of the HS code are stated on the import customs documents, a more differentiated examination cannot be made and a certificate is requested if CCC requirements are suspected.

Example¹: Filter fan SK3245.500

International HS code: 8414.51.00.00 Table, floor, wall, ceiling, roof or window fans with built-in electric motor, power <= 125 W

*HS codes subject to CCC: 8414.51.99.10 Axial-flow fan used on computer
8414.51.20.90 Other window fans with a self-contained electric motor of an output not exceeding 125 W*

If only the international HS code 8414.51 is stated on the customs documents, it cannot be clearly determined in the customs procedure whether the goods are subject to CCC as e.g. the axial-flow fans for use in computer housings with the HS code 8414.51.99.10 are that require a certificate..

Applicable national HS code: 8414.59.90.50 Axial fans for heat elimination of electronic products

The HS code 8414.59.90.50 is not subject to CCC requirements and can be used to import filter fans to China.

As the example shows, a differentiated statement of the product groups adjusted to the HS codes valid for China is necessary to guarantee trouble-free import.

The lists of the HS codes valid for China and the associated customs duties and restrictions are dynamic and are continuously updated. To guarantee you declare your delivery to China on the basis of an up-to-date list, please ask your import agent and declare your goods as precisely as possible. Moreover, you may also purchase our products directly in China from our local branch.

Yours sincerely,

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG

¹ The information on HS codes and possible CCC requirement stems from the Market Access Database of the European Union; <http://madb.europa.eu>.

The Information's given in this letter are based on the available content of the Market Access Database during December 2013. Rittal cannot guarantee the validity of the given Information's beyond December 2013 due to possible changes in the Database.