

Proposal for implementing mandatory commodity inspection of servers, routers, bridges, switches and hubs for ITE or network use

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

Background:

Most IT equipment has already been subject to mandatory requirements since 1998 in the TPKM to enhance the protection of consumers. Nowadays, the network equipment is widely used. In order to enhance the protection of consumers, the BSMI intends to regulate the EMC and safety requirements for servers, routers, bridges, switches and hubs. Among them, servers will be subject to a dual-track approach of conformity assessment procedures, namely Registration of Product Certification (RPC) or Type-approved Batch Inspection (TABI). As for routers, bridges, switches and hubs, they will be subject to Declaration of Conformity (DoC) Scheme.

Proposed date of implementation:

- January 1, 2012

Products (related inspection scheme, related codes and inspection standards) covered:

Products	Related C.C.C. Codes and Description of Goods	Inspection Standards	Inspection scheme
Server	8471.49.00.00.7 Other automatic data processing machines, presented in the form of systems	EMC : CNS 13438 (2006) Safety : CNS 14336-1 (2010)	Registration of Product Certification (RPC) (Module II and Module III) or Type-approved Batch Inspection (TABI)
Router/ Bridge/ Switch/ Hub	8517.62.00.00.5 Machines for the reception, conversion and transmission or regeneration of voice, images or other data, including switching and routing apparatus	EMC : CNS 13438 (2006) Safety : CNS 14336-1 (2010)	Declaration of Conformity (DoC)

Remarks : 1.CNS 13438 (2006) is harmonized with CISPR 22 : 2005

2.CNS 14336-1 (2010) is harmonized with IEC 60950 : 2005

The conformity assessment procedures for the inspection schemes are as follows:

1. Registration of Product Certification (RPC) Scheme

Under this scheme, manufacturers must have their products type-tested by the BSMI or designated testing laboratories recognized by the BSMI before applying for registration of their products. Manufacturers or importers will also be required to ensure by declaration that all products made at their manufacturing facilities are in conformity with the prototypes submitted for type testing.

Products will be allowed to use the Commodity Inspection Mark, the letter “R” and the identification number given by the BSMI, after they are certified and registered with the BSMI. These products can then pass through customs directly without any further inspection. The application fee and annual fee for RPC are both NT\$5,000 for each type of product, and the RPC certificates are valid for three years.

2. Type Approved Batch Inspection (TABI) Scheme

Under this scheme, the manufacturer or importer shall have their products type-tested by the BSMI or designated testing laboratories recognized by the BSMI, and then file an application for Type Approval with the BSMI.

After manufacturers or importers obtain type-approval certificates, they are required to file an application for inspection with the BSMI before their products are to be released from the production premises or arrive at the port of entry. The BSMI will then review the application and accompanying documents according to the simplified procedures. The application fee for a Type Approval is NT\$3500, and the Type Approval certificates are valid for three years.

3. Declaration of Conformity (DoC) Scheme

The manufacturer or importer first has to register with the BSMI and obtain an identification number before applying the DoC procedure. The obligatory inspection applicant must sign a declaration based on results of tests carried out by designated testing laboratories recognized by the BSMI and declare that the products comply with the relevant inspection standards. In addition, the manufacturer needs to prepare a technical file containing information about the product and the test reports. The product must be labeled with the Commodity Inspection Mark, the letter “D” and the identification number given by the BSMI.

Every obligatory inspection applicant in Taiwan is required to maintain technical files of all their declared regulated commodities as required in Article 46 of Commodity Inspection Act. These files are to be maintained by the obligatory inspection applicant for at least five (5) years following the date of the last product unit produced or imported.

The maintenance of the technical files is necessary to enable the Competent Authority to carry out

its investigation duties in the event of a complaint, incident or accident. Upon receiving request made by the Competent Authority, the obligatory inspection applicants must provide the Declaration of Conformity to Competent Authority within 24 hours, and relevant technical files to the Competent Authority within 10 working days.

In addition, the obligatory inspection applicant shall be responsible for the regular updating of the technical files especially if there have been modifications made to the declared regulated commodities. Supplementary testing and declaration are required if there are modifications with safety and/or EMC implications.

Locations to apply for Type Testing:

- 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 Type Approval or Registration of Product Certification:

- Fifteen working days. (This does not include the time for corrective actions by the applicant due to deficiencies in the documents or samples; another seven working days may be required if additional tests are required)

Related requirements:

1. Starting from January 1,2012, the above-mentioned regulated products will be implemented mandatory commodity inspection. For servers, there are two conformity assessment procedures are available, which are namely the Registration of Product Certification (RPC) or the Type-approved Batch Inspection (TABI) Scheme. The BSMI will accept such applications complying with the regulated testing products starting from the date of promulgation of this notice. When the BSMI completes the review procedure and approves the application, a certificate will be issued and its term of validity is 3 years starting from the issue date. As for routers, bridges, switches and hubs, these 4 kinds of products are applicable to the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) inspection scheme, which must comply with the related requirements according to CNS 13438(2006) and CNS 14336-1(2010). The obligatory inspection applicant shall first get the type-test report and sign the related DoC document before placing those 4 kinds of products into Taiwan market after the implementation date.

2. For the products covered in this notice, which use AC power directly or use power conversion devices to function themselves, the safety test according to CNS 14336-1 (2010) must be performed.
3. The inspection standards shall be the latest version of standards as of the date this public notice is adopted. When the applicable standard is revised or amended, the date of applying the revised or amended standard shall be decided and announced by the BSMI again.
4. For the products covered in this notice, the technical documents required for type testing shall be prescribed by the BSMI.
5. If the products covered in this notice have combined functions or multi-functions themselves, they shall comply with other relevant standards. If the products are equipped with accessories subject to mandatory inspection, the accessories shall comply with relevant requirements.
6. For the products covered in this notice, the National Certification Body (NCB) under the IECEE CB Scheme can apply to the BSMI for registration. After the application is approved, the equivalent IEC 60950-1 : 2005 safety test report issued from his associated CBTL combined with CB certificate can be forwarded to domestic BSMI-recognized testing laboratory to be transformed into a test report that can be accepted by the BSMI.