
China Sourcing Agent Comparison + Hiring Checklist

A transparent 2026 ranking of 15 China sourcing agents on a public 5-criteria rubric, with a fee-breakdown template, interview questions, and business-license verification steps.

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DISCLAIMER

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How This Guide Is Structured

This workbook is built to be used while you shortlist agents and before you pay a deposit. It contains (1) a transparent 5-criteria scoring rubric, (2) a 15-agent scored comparison, (3) a full score breakdown, (4) a hiring checklist with a fee-breakdown template, interview questions, and license-verification steps, and (5) official sources to verify each claim. Fill in every checkbox during your own vetting - never skip them because an agent looks credible.

Scoring Rubric (100 points)

Criterion	Weight	What We Measured
Service scope	30	End-to-end coverage: sourcing, sampling, QC, warehousing, FBA prep, freight.
Fee transparency	25	Written fee breakdown, original factory invoices, hidden-markup checks.
QC depth	20	AQL 2.5 execution, in-house vs freelance inspectors, live-video reporting.
Low-MOQ friendliness	15	Ability to negotiate 50-300 unit trial batches.
Responsiveness	10	Reply latency, escalation clarity, live-video availability.

Evidence used: trial orders, on-site audits, GSXT license cross-checks, and live-video factory walks. We accept no kickbacks and no paid placements.

At-a-Glance: 15 Agents Compared

Agent	Score	Best For	Typical Fee	Regional Strength	Key Risk
JingSourcing	86	Beginners, SMEs, Amazon FBA, low MOQ	5-10% commission	Yiwu	Confirm what the commission covers - lab testing, third-party inspections, and freight can be billed as add-ons.
Supplyia	85	Startups, small e-commerce teams, task-based help	A la carte / task-based	Yiwu & Shenzhen	Piecemeal pricing stacks up when you add services; confirm deliverable handoff points in writing.
LeelineGroup	84	Amazon FBA & Shopify sellers, one-stop service	5-10% flat service fee, invoices shown	Wuhan / Guangzhou / Shenzhen	Enterprise multi-country is not a strength; responsiveness lags at high volume. Score is self-assessed - we cannot audit ourselves.
Dragon Sourcing	83	Enterprise procurement, multi-country sourcing	Project-based	Hong Kong / Global	Rejects small test orders; slower corporate timelines and high minimums.
Advanta Sourcing	82	Quality-focused importers, boutique engagements	6-10% (public pricing limited)	China	Limited public fee data - demand a written margin breakdown before paying a deposit.
Guangzhou Sourcing	81	General consumer goods & electronics in Guangdong	5-8%	Guangzhou	Some regional labels hide two-person middlemen - verify the legal entity and in-house QC.
ChinaPurchasingAgent	80	Full-service traditional importing, fee-sensitive buyers	5-9% (low headline rates)	Yiwu / China	Low fee may only cover supplier introduction; QC, sample handling, warehousing, and logistics billed separately.
Goldenshiny	79	Yiwu market buying, general merchandise	6-10%	Yiwu	Yiwu wholesale strength only - avoid complex OEM or technical product development.
Keen Sourcing	78	SMEs needing sourcing plus QC oversight	Varies (project-based)	Shanghai	Clarify the compensation model up front; demand an itemized invoice separating product cost from service margin.
SourcingYuan	77	Custom-quote, one-off engagements	Competitive (custom quotes)	China	Custom quotes make fee comparison difficult - secure an itemized proposal before deposits.
Union Source	76	SMEs wanting full-service support after vetting	5-9%	Yiwu	Some QC is outsourced to freelancers - verify in-house vs outsourced operations before wiring money.
MindenSourcing	75	First-time importers, one-stop boutique service	5-9% (pricing tiers not public)	Yiwu	Pricing and factory specialties hidden online - vet audit transparency yourself.
HiSourcing	73	Amazon FBA & startups with zero/low fees	0-5%	Yiwu	Lighter-touch QC and service depth - confirm what a zero-fee offer actually includes.
Guided Imports	72	First-time importers, risk reduction	6-10%	China	Educational, high-touch approach is slower for repeat high-volume orders.
Ejet Sourcing	71	E-commerce & private label brands	5-8%	China	Narrower fit; verify product-development scope for your specific category.

Full Score Breakdown (per criterion)

Dimension maxima: Service scope 30, Fee transparency 25, QC depth 20, Low-MOQ 15, Responsiveness 10. Totals out of 100.

Agent	Scope	Fee	QC	MOQ	Resp	Total
JingSourcing	27	5-10% commission	16	14	10	86
Supplyia	25	A la carte / task-based	18	12	8	85
LeelineGroup	27	5-10% flat service fee, invoices shown	18	13	6	84
Dragon Sourcing	26	Project-based	20	7	9	83
Advanta Sourcing	24	6-10% (public pricing limited)	19	10	9	82
Guangzhou Sourcing	23	5-8%	18	11	8	81
ChinaPurchasingAgent	25	5-9% (low headline rates)	16	12	9	80
Goldenshiny	22	6-10%	15	14	8	79
Keen Sourcing	24	Varies (project-based)	19	9	8	78
SourcingYuan	24	Competitive (custom quotes)	16	10	8	77
Union Source	25	5-9%	15	11	8	76
MindenSourcing	23	5-9% (pricing tiers not public)	16	11	8	75
HiSourcing	19	0-5%	12	13	6	73
Guided Imports	22	6-10%	15	8	7	72
Ejet Sourcing	21	5-8%	14	10	7	71

Fee-Breakdown Template

Fill this out with every shortlisted agent before you pay a deposit. A written fee breakdown is the only reliable way to compare agents apples-to-apples - never accept a bare commission percentage.

- ☐ 1. Factory unit price before any agent margin.
Evidence: Original factory invoice or PO issued by the factory itself.
- ☐ 2. Agent commission or service fee.
Evidence: Percentage or flat amount, stated in writing.
- ☐ 3. Quality control / inspection fees per gate.
Evidence: Pre-production, during-production, and pre-shipment prices listed separately.
- ☐ 4. Sampling and prototype costs.
Evidence: Who pays, and is sampling credited toward bulk production?
- ☐ 5. Warehousing and consolidation fees.
Evidence: Per CBM or per month, including any free-storage window.
- ☐ 6. FBA prep, polybagging, and labeling fees.
Evidence: Per-unit charges itemized.
- ☐ 7. Freight and customs brokerage.
Evidence: FOB vs DDP - confirm who handles each leg and who pays duty.
- ☐ 8. Bank transfer and payment-processing fees.
Evidence: Who absorbs the wire and currency-conversion costs.

Interview Questions for a Sourcing Agent

Ask these in a live call before you commit. The answers separate a real operations team from a referral desk that marks up another trading company.

- ☐ 1. "How do you make money, exactly?"
Evidence: Commission, flat fee, or markup on unit price - stated clearly.
- ☐ 2. "Show me the original factory invoice for your last three orders."
Evidence: Invoices confirm there is no hidden unit markup.
- ☐ 3. "Which QC inspectors work in-house vs freelance?"
Evidence: Named inspectors with a defined reporting line.
- ☐ 4. "What happens at a failed pre-shipment inspection?"
Evidence: A written rework or rejection policy.
- ☐ 5. "What MOQ can you negotiate for a 100-unit first test?"
Evidence: A concrete number, not a range.
- ☐ 6. "Which regions and categories do you NOT serve well?"
Evidence: Honest boundaries beat vague promises.
- ☐ 7. "Can you do a live video walkthrough of the factory today?"
Evidence: Entrance sign, warehouse, and QC station on camera.

Business-License & Bank Verification Steps

Verify the legal entity before wiring any money. Cross-check every claim against an official registry such as GSXT or IAF CertSearch.

- ☐ 1. Pull the 18-digit Unified Social Credit Code and confirm the legal name on GSXT.

Evidence: GSXT record matches the contract and signage.

- ☐ 2. Check the registered business scope for manufacturing vs trading.

Evidence: Manufacturing keywords present; a sales-only scope means a trading company.

- ☐ 3. Confirm China Customs registration and export rights.

Evidence: Customs registration number; direct export history on record.

- ☐ 4. Match the bank beneficiary name against the official company chop.

Evidence: Bank confirmation matches; no personal or offshore account.

- ☐ 5. Validate ISO 9001 and product certificates on IAF CertSearch.

Evidence: Certificate active; scope covers your product category.

- ☐ 6. Run a live video office walkthrough - license on the wall, staff badges, desks.

Evidence: Office matches the license; not a virtual showroom.

- ☐ 7. Place a small trial order before scaling.

Evidence: Trial order passes inspection; communication holds.

External Sources & References

Verify legal registration, certificates, and current U.S. tariff rules against these official sources.

National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System (GSXT)

<https://www.gsxt.gov.cn/>

Official registry to verify a company's legal name, 18-digit Unified Social Credit Code, shareholder structure, litigation, and abnormal operating status.

IAF CertSearch - global certificate database

<https://www.iafcertsearch.org/>

Official global database to verify management-system certificate accreditation, issuing body, scope, and validity.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export>

Official source for importing into the U.S., including formal entry requirements and the end of the de minimis exemption.

USTR - Section 301 Investigations

<https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/enforcement/section-301-investigations>

Official source for Section 301 tariffs on China, current rates, exclusions, and Federal Register notices.

USITC - HTS Online Reference

<https://hts.usitc.gov/>

Search current U.S. tariff schedules at the 10-digit level to confirm the duties on your product.

ISO 9001 - Quality Management

<https://www.iso.org/iso-9001-quality-management.html>

The quality management standard agents and factories cite most.

ISO 2859-1 - Sampling procedures for inspection

<https://www.iso.org/standard/39589.html>

The AQL sampling standard used at inspection gates.

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Ready to Source from China Without the Guesswork?

Use the scored comparison to shortlist, then talk to a sourcing team that publishes its fees, shows original factory invoices, and enforces AQL 2.5. We help e-commerce sellers and importers source, inspect, and ship from China with a free, transparent quote.

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