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# Fake Certificate Verification Checklist

A printable field pack for proving a Chinese supplier's certificates are real before any deposit: the five verification gates, the full file set to request, the CNCA registry walkthrough, the entity-and-scope match, the product-level evidence to demand, and the on-site check that closes the file.

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## DISCLAIMER

This checklist is a field tool drawn from LeelineGroup's on-site supplier audits and anonymised QC records. It is provided for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for licensed third-party inspection, legal counsel or customs advice. LeelineGroup charges a transparent 3%-7% service fee and takes no factory kickbacks and no paid placements. Every certificate, entity and number you enter here is your own; verify each one against the issuing body before you award business.

# 1. The Five Verification Gates

Run the five gates in order. Each one answers a different question, and a fail at any gate stops the supplier before money moves - the sequence is what makes a certificate provable rather than merely presented.

| Gate                      | Question it answers                                                | Pass signal                                                                                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Document pack          | Is the full original file set complete and internally consistent?  | Every page present; certificate, license, invoice and bank names match character for character.        |
| 2. Issuer & accreditation | Does the certificate number resolve to a live, accredited issuer?  | The CNCA record reads youxiao (valid), with a CNCA approval code and a CNAS / IAF trail.               |
| 3. Legal entity & scope   | Does the certificate name the site that actually makes your goods? | Legal name, USCC, address and scope all cover the production site and the process.                     |
| 4. Product-level evidence | Is there product evidence beyond a management-system certificate?  | A signed DoC, a matching UL file, or lab reports whose sample and model match your SKU.                |
| 5. Site verification      | Does the physical floor match the certified scope?                 | Original certificates, controlled documents, calibration records and live production verified on site. |

*Paper verification is necessary but not sufficient: fake certificates ride on fake factories, shadow subcontractors, or middlemen borrowing another plant's paperwork. Gate 5 is the physical check that closes the file.*

## 2. The Full File Set to Request

Send the exact same request to every candidate, so the differences you see reflect the supplier rather than your instructions. Ask for one PDF containing the entire set - never a cover page or a screenshot.

| File to request                      | Why it matters                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Full multi-page certificate PDF      | A searchable original - never a screenshot or a cover page alone.                           |
| Complete audit report (all pages)    | Every page, including surveillance pages and appendices; cover pages hide non-conformities. |
| Full lab test report (all pages)     | One-page summaries are often in-house only, not the accredited lab's report.                |
| Declaration of Conformity (CE, RoHS) | Where the product carries a CE mark, the signed DoC is the real evidence.                   |
| Chinese business license (with USCC) | Carries the legal name, representative, address, business scope and 18-digit code.          |
| Factory address                      | Verify it against satellite imagery and the site address on the certificate.                |

### 3. The Comparison Table

Build one table and compare every field against the original Chinese business license. Open the certificate PDF in Adobe Acrobat Pro and use the layers panel to spot pasted stamps or edited text boxes.

| Field                      | Certificate | Business license | Match? |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------|
| Supplier sales entity      |             |                  |        |
| Manufacturing entity       |             |                  |        |
| Chinese company name       |             |                  |        |
| English company name       |             |                  |        |
| Unified Social Credit Code |             |                  |        |
| Address                    |             |                  |        |
| Certificate number         |             |                  |        |
| Issuing body               |             |                  |        |
| Issue date                 |             |                  |        |
| Expiry date                |             |                  |        |
| Scope                      |             |                  |        |

*Every cell must be logged and conflict-free before this gate closes. If the supplier cannot deliver a complete file set within one business day, pause the workflow - do not release a deposit or approve samples.*

## 4. Triage Signals - Suspected Tampering

A normal file has one typeface, clean pagination and uniform header spacing. Flag any of the following; a layout that jumps page to page is a suspected alteration.

| Signal                                                  | What it means                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Missing pages, appendices or skipped page numbers       | A complete file has clean pagination; a gap means pages were removed.         |
| Blurry stamps or logos at a different sharpness         | Pasted stamps carry a different resolution than the page around them.         |
| Inconsistent fonts or text off the baseline             | Edited text boxes drift off the original baseline and typeface.               |
| Mismatched address or USCC                              | The most reliable fraud signal: the certificate and the license disagree.     |
| Certificate expiring within 90 days                     | An about-to-expire file is often a certificate the supplier is about to lose. |
| Scope unrelated to your product                         | A trading or packaging scope does not validate production.                    |
| "Certificate is updating", or refusal to send raw files | A real certificate is downloadable from the registry in seconds.              |

## 5. Verify on the CNCA Registry

Every legal management certificate issued inside China sits in one government database. Type the official URL yourself (cx.cnca.cn) - never follow a link printed on a certificate, because scammers build look-alike lookup sites on .com or .net domains.

| Check                        | What good looks like                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Search by number and by name | Paste the exact certificate number, or the factory's Chinese legal name, into the CNCA platform (cx.cnca.cn).                      |
| Registration status          | The status box must read youxiao (valid). Walk away on zanting (suspended) or cexiao (revoked).                                    |
| Issuing body approval code   | Every legal Chinese certifier carries a CNCA approval code, such as CNCA-R-2002-001.                                               |
| CNAS and IAF logos           | Look for both marks. An ISO 9001 PDF from an unknown UK or US agency with no CNCA record is usually a bought fake.                 |
| International cross-check    | Confirm overseas-issued certificates on IAF CertSearch for a live global accreditation trail.                                      |
| Seven-field match            | Certificate number, company name, site address, scope, issuing body, issue date and expiry must match the supplier's file exactly. |

### Green lights

- The certificate number resolves to a live record whose seven fields match the supplier's file exactly.
- The issuer carries a CNCA approval code and a live CNAS / IAF accreditation trail.

### Red lights

- A missing or mismatched record - treat the certificate as unverified and stop the audit.
- A certificate from a non-accredited or irrelevant body: genuine-looking, commercially worthless.

## 6. Product-Level Evidence

ISO 9001 proves a factory follows quality management. It does not prove the product meets CE, UL, FCC, CPSIA or REACH. Collect the product-level file that matches your exact SKU, and verify each item on the issuing body's own system.

| Document                                    | What it is                                                                                   | How to verify                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC)          | The manufacturer-issued, signed DoC that actually backs a CE mark on standard goods.         | It must name your model and cite the EN standards, such as EN 62368 or EN 71.                |
| Notified Body (NB) certificate              | Only high-risk goods - medical, gas, PPE - need a real certificate from an EU Notified Body. | Look up the 4-digit NB number on the EU NANDO database and confirm the directive.            |
| UL file number                              | For UL-listed products, the file number ties the brand and model family to the listing.      | Verify it in UL Product iQ; a file for a different SKU or rating is void.                    |
| Lab test report (SGS / TUV / Intertek / BV) | The full report from the accredited lab, not a QR-code summary page.                         | Enter the report number on the lab's own domain and compare the sample photos to your goods. |
| EU Authorized Representative (EU Rep)       | Non-EU sellers must name an EU Rep on the DoC and on the packaging.                          | Confirm the Rep's contact details appear on both the DoC and the product.                    |

## 7. On-Site Verification

Paper verification is necessary but not sufficient. Go to the actual production address - never accept a video tour from an office-only showroom - and confirm the five items below.

- ☐ 1. Original certificates on file  
*Evidence: Ask to see the originals at the production site, not a folder of scans.*
- ☐ 2. Controlled-document logs  
*Evidence: Revision-controlled SOPs and inspection records, dated and signed.*
- ☐ 3. Calibration records  
*Evidence: Valid calibration stickers, e.g. CNAS, on the gauges and calipers in use.*
- ☐ 4. Production capability for your SKU  
*Evidence: The machines and process route that match your product, running now.*
- ☐ 5. Process matched to the certified scope  
*Evidence: The work on the floor equals the activity named in the certificate scope.*

### Certificate verification log - one row per document you check

| Document | Issuer | Issued | Expires | Verification link | Status |
|----------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |
|          |        |        |         |                   |        |

## 8. Red-Flag Screen - Pause the Order

Any single flag below pauses the order until it is resolved in writing. A surface-clean supplier with a mismatched entity or a borrowed certificate is the most common failure, not a crudely forged license.

☐ 1. Certificate number returns zero results

*Evidence: Freeze onboarding and call the registrar's compliance desk using the CNAS directory number - never the number on the supplier's PDF.*

☐ 2. Contracting entity differs from the certificate holder

*Evidence: Demand documented manufacturing authority, or contract the certified entity directly.*

☐ 3. Certificate borrowed from a sister company or middleman

*Evidence: A genuine certificate held by the wrong party is a legal and compliance gap.*

☐ 4. Bank beneficiary is not the certified entity

*Evidence: A one-word difference - Garment vs Trading - is the cheapest fraud signal to catch.*

☐ 5. CE file with no DoC or test reports

*Evidence: Under EU Regulation 2019/1020 a standalone "CE certificate" will not clear customs.*

☐ 6. Lab report tied to a different sample or model

*Evidence: A real report number still fails if the sample, applicant or model differs from your order.*

☐ 7. ISO 9001 offered instead of product evidence

*Evidence: A management-system certificate does not prove the product meets CE, UL, FCC or CPSIA.*

## 9. Sources & Official Verification Programs

Verify every certificate, registration and audit claim against the issuing body - never against a forwarded PDF or a cover page.

- **CNCA - China national certification and accreditation platform**

The single government database behind every legal Chinese management certificate. Confirm the certificate number, the live status (youxiao = valid) and the issuing body's CNCA approval code. (<https://cx.cnca.cn/>)

- **CNAS - accredited body and laboratory directory**

The China National Accreditation Service directory of accredited certification bodies and laboratories. Confirm the issuer is accredited before you trust a certificate. (<https://www.cnas.org.cn/>)

- **IAF CertSearch - global certificate database**

The global database of IAF-accredited management-system certificates. Cross-check overseas-issued ISO certificates for a live accreditation trail. (<https://www.iafcertsearch.org/>)

- **EU NANDO - notified bodies database**

The European Commission notified-body database. Look up the 4-digit NB number next to a CE mark and confirm that body may test your exact directive. (<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/>)

- **UL Product iQ - UL certification database**

UL Solutions certification database. Verify the UL file number and confirm the brand, model family and category match the item you actually buy. (<https://productiq.ulprospector.com/en>)

- **ISO 9001 - quality management systems**

The quality-management standard behind an ISO 9001 claim. It proves a quality system, not product compliance - product evidence is a separate file set. (<https://www.iso.org/iso-9001-quality-management.html>)

## Want Someone On The Ground Running These Checks?

Run this checklist yourself, or have it run for you: registry entity checks, bank-beneficiary matching, a live factory walkthrough and an AQL pre-shipment inspection on your own PO. We charge a transparent 3%-7% service fee and take no factory kickbacks. Free quote, no obligation.

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