

General Conformity Certificate Fact Sheet

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide guidance to SGIA members as they implement the provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Information Act (CPSIA), as administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The information contained in this document should not be construed as legal advice. As new information becomes available, this fact sheet will be updated. Currently, the CPSC has issued four proposed rules. SGIA is in the process of developing and submitting comments on the relevant proposals.

General Conformity Certificate (GCC) Fact Sheet

All products manufactured after December 31, 2011 that must be tested according to any one of the CPSC's safety standards must be accompanied by a certificate. Products covered include, not only children's products regulated by the CPSIA, but any other consumer product that must be tested in accordance with an identified test method. To find an approved testing facility, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/labsearch/>.

A GCC must be issued with each shipment of product leaving the manufacturer. The requirement to furnish a certificate applies to imports and products manufactured domestically. The CPSC has issued a final rule, stating that an electronic certificate is "accompanying" a shipment if the certificate is uniquely identified and can be accessed via the World Wide Web or other electronic means, provided the URL and the unique identifier are created in advance and are available with the shipment. Certificates can also be transmitted electronically to a broker with other customs entry documents before a shipment arrives, so long as they are available to the Commission or Customs and Border Protection staff if the product or shipment is inspected. The certificate does not need to be signed, as the issuing of a certificate indicates compliance with the law.

For imported products, the GCC must be issued by the importer. For products produced domestically, the certificate must be issued by the US manufacturer. Foreign manufacturers or private labelers are not required to issue a certificate, and do not need to be identified on the certificate issued.

The CPSC has not issued a set format and has left it up to individual manufacturers to develop their own forms. The following elements must be included on all certificates issued:

- Identification of the product covered by this certificate
- A description of the product covered by this certification, in enough detail to match the certificate to each product it covers and no others.

- Citation to each CPSC product safety regulation to which this product is being certified.

The certificate must identify separately each rule, ban, standard or regulation under the Acts administered by the Commission, applicable to the product.

The certificate must identify the US importer or domestic manufacturer certifying compliance of the product. In this section, provide the name, full mailing address and telephone number of the importer or US domestic manufacturer.

The certificate must identify contact information for the individual maintaining records of test results. In this section, provide the name, full mailing address, email address and telephone number of the person maintaining test records in support of the certification

The certificate must identify date and place where the product was manufactured. In this section provide the date(s) when the product was manufactured by, at least, month and year. For the place of manufacture, provide, at least, the city and country or administrative region of the place where the product was finally manufactured or assembled. If the same manufacturer operates more than one location in the same city, provide the street address of the factory.

The certificate must identify the date and place where the product was tested for compliance with the regulation(s) cited above. In this section, provide the date of the tests or test report(s) on which certification is based, and the location(s) of the testing. The city, state, country or administrative region is required information in this section.

The certificate must identify any third-party laboratory on upon whose testing the certificate depends. For any third-party laboratory used to test the product or conducted a testing program on which the certification is based, give the name, full mailing address and telephone number of the laboratory.

Specialty Graphic Imaging Association (SGIA) Supporting the Leaders of the Digital & Screen Printing Community

"Specialty imaging" comprises digital imaging, screen printing and the many other imaging technologies SGIA members use, including those they'll tap in the future. These are the imaging processes and technologies employed to create new products and to enhance existing products including point-of-purchase displays, signs, advertisements, garments, containers and vehicles.