

Hygiene License, Record-keeping Certificate & CIQ Labels for Imported Cosmetics in China

China is the cosmetics market with a huge growth potential in the future. According to forecasts, the Chinese cosmetics market will grow by more than 10% each year in the near future. Compared to other industries, it offers more business opportunities and possibilities. But did you know that you shall obtain Hygiene License and CIQ Label first before your place cosmetics on China market?

All imported cosmetics can only be sold in the Chinese market after they have obtained **Hygiene License** or **Record-keeping Certificate** for imported cosmetics issued by the SFDA (the State Food and Drugs Administration) and **CIQ Labels**. A cosmetic with CIQ label means it has already passed the examination of China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau and is allowed to be sold in China. Consumers will check the CIQ label before purchasing imported cosmetics.



On Apr 1st, 2010, the new rules of Hygiene License Application for imported cosmetics were implemented. CIRS will give detailed guidance on how to obtain Hygiene License and CIQ Label in this document according to new rules.

- **Hygiene License or Record-keeping Certificate**

It is a document issued by the SFDA approving the import of a cosmetics product to China. Hygiene license is issued for specific use cosmetics and record-keeping certificate is issued for ordinary cosmetics.

- **CIQ (China Inspection Quarantine) Labels**



It is a laser label adhered onto the packages of regular import cosmetics which have been approved by China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau for sale in the Chinese market.

Cosmetics can be divided into two categories and each category requires different procedure.

- **Imported cosmetics for nonspecific uses:**
For hair, nail (toenail), body care, aroma product, color cosmetics.
- **Imported cosmetics for specific uses:**
Deodorants, depilation, pimple removal, anti-sunburn, perm, hair dyes, hair grower, body building and breast beauty

● Import of Cosmetics for Nonspecific Uses

Cosmetics for non-specific uses do not require hygiene license. However, companies shall apply for record-keeping certificate for those products. The first step is to send the sample of a product to a cosmetics testing institution approved by the SFDA for testing.

After receiving application materials (see next page) along with the testing report, the SFDA will decide whether to issue **record-keeping certificate** or not within 20 working days.

● Import of Cosmetics for Specific Uses

Cosmetics for specific use (i.e. deodorants, depilation, pimple removal, sun protection, perm, hair dyes, hair grower, body building and breast beauty) will need the hygiene license. More tests need to be carried out and it takes longer to obtain such license.

After testing, applicant shall gather all required documents (see next page) and send them to Safety Approval Committee of the ministry of health for review. It takes 2 to 8 months for the committee to evaluate one product. Usually, the **hygiene license** will be issued within 1.5 or 2 months after the official evaluation meeting.



Application Materials Required

(1 original, 13 copies)

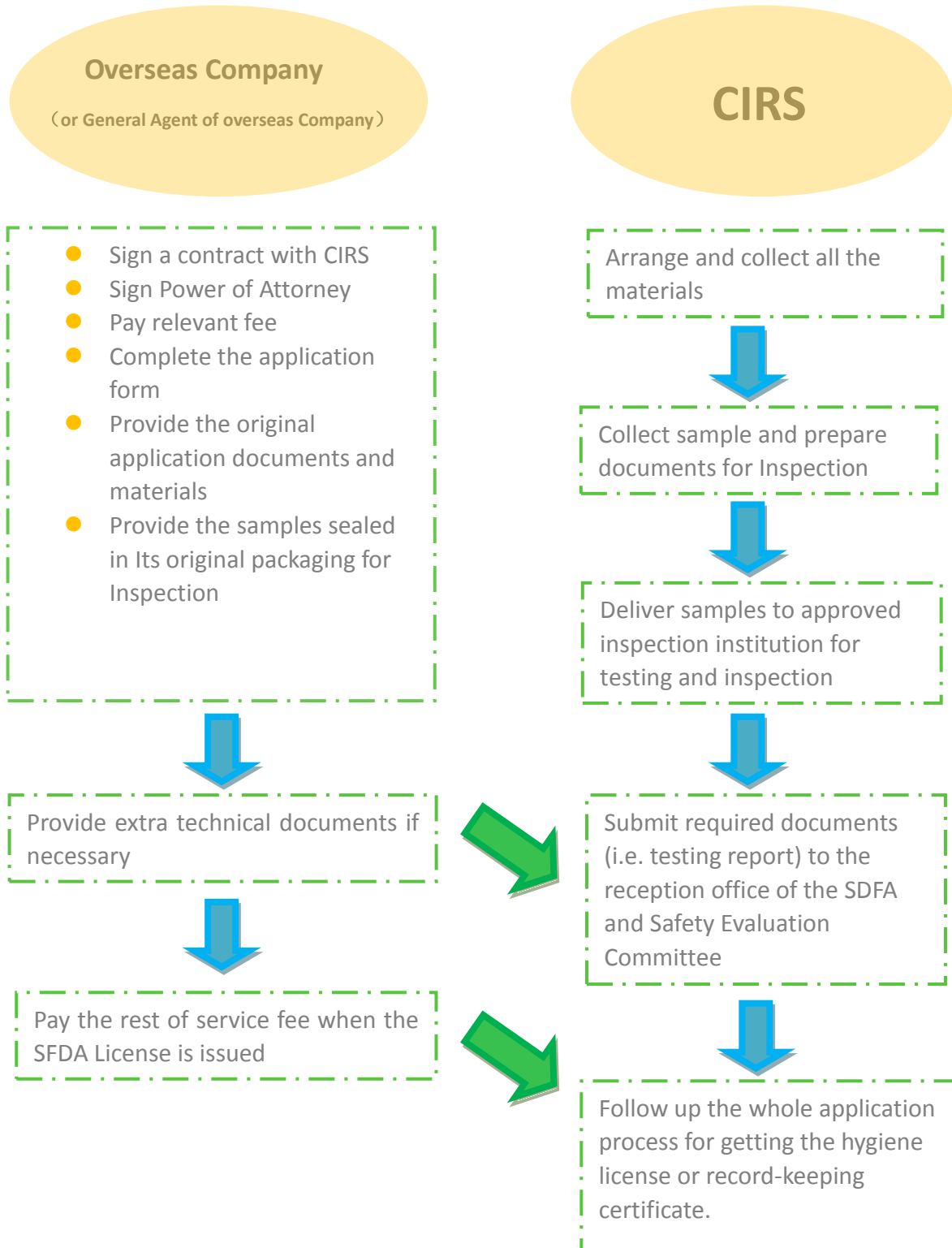
1. Application form for hygiene license of imported cosmetic
2. Product ingredient
3. Effective components, evidence of usage and inspection methods
4. Manufacturing technique and diagram
5. Product quality standard (in-house standard)
6. Testing report from a cosmetics testing institution approved by the SDFA and related materials:
 - Application form for inspection
 - Notice of acceptance for inspection
 - Product instruction
 - Inspection report issued by cosmetic inspection organization approved by the SDFA;



7. Product package (sales package & product label);
8. Certified document for production and sales in the manufacturing country (region);
9. The statement on related problems of 'Mad Cow Disease';(new)
10. Apply the power of attorney, if provided by agent;
11. Some other documents may be helpful for inspection;
12. 3 sealed samples (-as the case may be)

Note: if you export cosmetics for specific use to China, you should submit extra materials: effective components, evidence of usage, inspection methods of products and body safety testing reports.

Procedures for Application of Hygiene License for Imported Cosmetics



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long will the application process take?

The duration of application for cosmetics (factors: testing duration, preparation of materials, evaluation and policy of evaluation):

- For nonspecific use cosmetics: 4-6 months
- For specific use cosmetics: 6-12 months

2. How does the safety and health quality testing operate?

- All testing should be carried out by an institution that is approved by the SFDA. The entire testing period will span from 2 to 6 months. Costs typically range between USD 600 and USD 4,000, depending on the type of cosmetics and the degree of complexity.
- The duration of testing for cosmetics:
 - For nonspecific use: 40-60 days;
 - For specific use:
 - Hair dye produces: 60 days
 - Deodorization, depilation, perm: 80 days
 - Body building and breast beauty: 150 days
 - Hair grower: 180 days

If you have any questions please contact:

Ms April Guo, april.guo@cirs-reach.com

Tel: +86-57187206555 Fax: +86-57187208533

Address: Hangzhou CIRS Co. Ltd

11/F., Building 1, Dongguan Hi-Tech Park, 1288
Chunbo Road, Binjiang District, Hangzhou, China

3. How much does the Application cost?

The application fee consists of 4 parts. They are **inspection fee, translation fee, notarization fee and agent fee**. Costs of inspection will range between USD 600 and USD 4,000, depending on the type of cosmetics and the degree of complexity. The total of translation fee and notarization fee will not exceed USD 150. In addition, agent fees will vary.

4. Who will carry out the cosmetics inspection?

The cosmetics inspection institution appointed by the SFDA

5. Do cosmetics need to be retested, if it had been tested in foreign labs?

Generally, imported cosmetics need to be tested by appointed inspection institution in China. However, if Anti-sunburn cosmetics have had SPF and PA tests in foreign labs, exporters can provide the testing report of the Anti-sunburn cosmetics, as well as some documents on qualification of the labs.

