

Certificate Exchange Network

Facilitating Compliance with the Consumer Product Safety Information Act

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), signed by the US Congress into law in 2008, is designed to protect consumers from all products and packaging that may contain dangerous quantities of harmful substances such as lead and phthalates. While the law is mostly targeted towards products intended for children 12 years of age or younger, including toys, video games, apparel, shoes, books, school supplies and jewelry, it also affects any product subject to CPSC regulations.

Specifically, CPSIA increases the budget of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to impose new testing and documentation requirements, and sets new acceptable levels of several substances contained in consumer products. As of February 2010, all affected products must be accompanied by General Certificates of Conformity (GCC) stating that the product has been tested and meets appropriate standards, such as child-resistant packaging on products like acetaminophen, batteries, cosmetics and mouthwash. To see the full list of products requiring GCCs go to the CPSC website at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/reg1.html>.

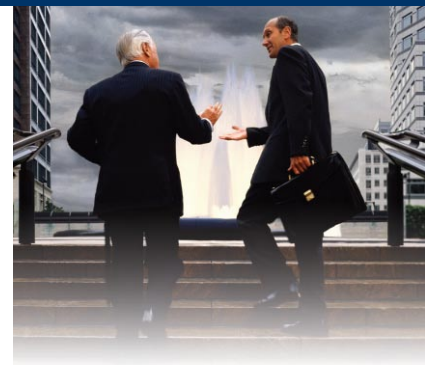
One of the most challenging aspects of the CPSIA is ensuring the appropriate GCCs are available to retailers, distributors and manufacturers throughout the supply chain. State Attorney General Inspectors can now audit stores and demand to see proof of testing certificates within 24-48 hours. A GCC, which can be in paper or electronic format, must include not only the product and importer, but also its date and place of manufacturer as well as its date and place of testing.

Certificate Exchange Network

To simplify the process of certificate management, GXS offers the Certificate Exchange Network (CEN). The CEN is an online clearinghouse where manufacturers can post or link to existing certificates of conformity directly. With a simple, easy-to-use browser interface, retailers can download on demand any product certificate needed to demonstrate CPSIA compliance. The CEN is purpose-built to help businesses boost efficiency and effectiveness of their CPSIA compliance efforts, reduce risks and minimise costs.

Using the CEN, manufacturers can self-register on the network, create a profile and begin to immediately publish certificates to the Exchange. Suppliers have the option of loading an image copy of the actual certificate or providing a URL link to a location where the certificate can be obtained.

Retailers can logon to view and download certificates. Retail compliance officers can browse a directory of manufacturers along with individual profiles. Alternatively, retailers can search for specific certificates by GTIN, supplier, product name or lot number.





Additional Services

GXS can provide on-boarding services for retailers to accelerate the adoption of CEN by suppliers. The process starts with an assessment of which suppliers are impacted by the regulations. Then targeted suppliers are contacted via email, phone or webinars to explain the benefits of joining the CEN. Tracking of on-boarding progress can be monitored online via a robust set of reporting tools.

The CEN functionality can be extended to demonstrate adherence to other regulatory, operational, or product compliance initiatives. For example, the CEN can be used to house additional documentation such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and California Proposition 65. Additionally, CEN can be combined with GXS's full suite of Enterprise Community Management services to survey and manage partner compliance activities related to Corporate Social Responsibility. For example, quarterly surveys of suppliers can be conducted to gather documentation and supplier positions on greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, labour policies and regulatory compliance.

ABOUT GXS

GXS is a leading global provider of B2B e-commerce solutions that simplify and enhance business process integration and collaboration among trading partners. Organisations worldwide, including more than 75 percent of the Fortune 500, leverage the on-demand services on GXS Trading Grid® to extend supply chain networks, optimise product launches, automate warehouse receiving, manage electronic payments and gain supply chain visibility. GXS Managed Services, GXS' B2B outsourcing solution, empowers customers with the expertise, technical infrastructure and program support to conduct B2B e-commerce with trading partners globally. Based in Gaithersburg, Md., GXS has an extensive global network and has local offices in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific regions. GXS can be found on the Web at www.gxs.co.uk.

UNITED KINGDOM

18 Station Road
Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex TW16 6SU
United Kingdom
+44 (0)1932 776047 t
+44 (0)1932 776216 f
www.gxs.co.uk

NORTH AMERICA AND GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

9711 Washingtonian Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
U.S.A.
+1-800-560-4347 t
+1-301-340-4000 t
+1-301-340-5299 f
www.gxs.com

FRANCE

Cachan Porte Sud
191, av. Aristide Briand
94230 Cachan
France
+33 1 46 73 16 00 t
+33 1 46 73 16 01 f
www.gxs.fr

GERMANY

Leyboldstrasse 16
50354 Hürth-Efferen
Germany
+49 2233 609 0 t
+49 2233 609 205 f
www.gxs-gmbh.de

ASIA PACIFIC

Room 1609-10
16/F China Resources Building
26 Harbour Road, Wanchai
Hong Kong
+852 2884-6088 t
+852 2513-0650 f
www.gxs.asia.com



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