SSDWM · SUPPLIER VERIFICATION

12 checks before you pay.

The document file, the red flags and the questions that make a deposit safer.

HOW TO USE THIS

Work top to bottom. Each check has a document or a verifiable fact behind it. If a supplier cannot clear checks 1, 4, 7 and 12, stop and fix that before discussing price.

01 The licence matches the contracting entity

Legal name, 18-digit unified social credit code, legal representative, registered address and status must match the PI, the bank account and the customs records. A licence for a different company is not a licence for this order.

02 Registered capital is not paid-in capital

A high registered number proves nothing about cash. Ask for the paid-in figure and the latest annual report; treat a brand-new company with a huge registered capital as a question, not a reassurance.

03 Factory or trading company — decide which you need

Ask for the production address, a live video walk-through and the business licence scope. A trading company can be the right partner, but the price and the quality responsibility must reflect that.

04 Customs registration and export history

Ask for the customs registration code and evidence of exports: bills of lading, export declarations or a customs record. A company that has never exported the product is learning on your order.

05 Product certificates name the exact model

CE, FDA, FCC, CPSC, SASO/Saber and similar files must match the model, the factory and the standard. A generic certificate for a “similar product” is not evidence for your SKU.

06 Test reports come from an accredited lab

Check the lab, the report number, the date and the tested model. A factory PDF with no traceable report number is a brochure, not a test.

07 The bank account belongs to the contracting entity

The account name must match the licence and the PI. Verify any change by voice on a known number, never by email alone. Personal accounts and unrelated third-party accounts are stop signs.

08 Two or three references you can actually call

Ask for repeat customers, preferably outside China, and ask what went wrong as well as what went right. A supplier with no referenceable customer is a higher-risk supplier.

09 Capacity matches the order and the lead time

Ask how many lines, how many staff, what is in-house and what is subcontracted. A price that assumes capacity the factory does not have becomes a delay after the deposit.

10 AQL, inspection and the failure procedure

Agree the AQL and the inspection method before production. Confirm who inspects, what happens on a failed lot, who pays for rework and what triggers a refund.

11 Litigation, penalties and credit record

Check China Judgements Online, Credit China, the enforcement list and customs penalties. A supplier with unpaid judgments is a collections risk, not just a quality risk.

12 Sanctions, end use and insurance eligibility

Screen the parties, the destination and the end use. Credit-insured terms depend on insurer approval; a supplier that cannot support the documents can still break the programme.

STOP SIGNS

Red flags and the document file.

RED FLAGS THAT SHOULD STOP THE ORDER

- Refuses a live video walk-through or a factory address that matches the licence.
- Bank account is in a personal name, a different company, or changes by email at the last minute.
- The licence scope does not include the product you are buying.
- Price is far below every other quote and the explanation is “our factory is better”.
- Demands 100% payment before any inspection, or refuses a third-party inspection.
- New company, no export record, but claims decades of experience and top-tier customers.
- Certificate or test report names a different model, factory or standard.
- Pressure to sign today because “the price expires”, without time to verify the entity.

DOCUMENTS TO REQUEST

DOCUMENT	WHAT IT PROVES
Business licence (copy with seal)	Legal entity, scope, status, registered address
Customs registration record	Exporter identity and customs code
Export licence (if controlled)	Right to export the product
Product certificate	Model, standard, factory and validity
Test report	Accredited lab, report number, tested model
Bank account confirmation	Account name matches the entity
Two customer references	Repeat orders and payment behaviour
Factory video / photos	Line, capacity, address and product
PI with Incoterm and terms	Price, risk transfer and payment milestones

WHAT THE LICENCE DOES NOT PROVE

It does not prove the factory, the bank account, the quality system or the export record.
It proves a company exists. The other checks prove it can carry your order.

NEED A SECOND PAIR OF EYES?

Send the licence and the PI. We will tell you what is missing.

chris@ssdwm.com · WhatsApp +86 186 7311 1621 · ssdwm.com/contact/

RULE OF THUMB

If checks 1, 4, 7 or 12 fail, do not send the deposit. Fix the entity first.