

## FDA posts to its web site, 'Updated List of Certified "Daily-Use" Ceramic Tableware Factories in China'

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The FDA's current information sheet is dated February 8, 2005 and the current list of 526 certified factories. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the safety of ceramic tableware between the FDA and China representatives, defines two categories of ceramic tableware, daily-use (dinnerware which is usually inexpensive and commonly used) and traditional (dinnerware that is usually porcelain, hand-painted, and highly decorated). According to FDA sources the MOU implements certain factory certification and carton labeling requirements for daily-use ceramic tableware produced in China.

**CNCA Regularly Updates List of Certified Daily-Use Ceramic Tableware Factories.** FDA sources state that the CNCA issues, on a roughly quarterly basis, an updated list of certified "daily-use" ceramic tableware factories to the FDA containing the name, address, and unique factory code for each certified factory. FDA sources have stated that updates and corrections to this list are generally posted toward the end of January, May, and September of each year at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~comm/ceramic.html>. (see also FDA Import Alert #52-08, "Detention Without Physical Examination of Ceramicware Due to Excessive Lead and/or Cadmium," This Alert lists the Chinese factories that are subject to automatic detention without physical examination and is available at [http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora\\_import\\_alert\\_list.html](http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora_import_alert_list.html)). According to the FDA, the list of certified factories is incorporated into the agency's automated import entry examination system to determine, at the time a consignment of ceramic tableware from China is offered for entry into the U.S., the eligibility of the shipment to proceed into U.S. commerce under the terms of the MOU. FDA sources have previously stated that certified Chinese ceramic tableware factories have a lower level of scrutiny than those that are not certified.

**CCIB Sticker/Logos for "Daily-Use" Ceramicware Produced by Certified Factories.** The FDA indicates that the MOU specifies that each shipping and retail carton of ceramic tableware from a CNCA-certified factory should be affixed with a China Commodity Inspection Bureau (CCIB or CIQ) sticker/logo embossed with the unique code number of the production facility that produced the ware. The sticker/logo (1) serves as an additional means of identifying a particular consignment as having originated from a CNCA-certified factory, and (2) facilitates the trace back of a consignment to a particular production facility in the event of any instance of noncompliance with applicable FDA action levels for leachable lead and cadmium. The FDA has provided illustrations of these stickers/logos in its information sheet. **Importers Strongly Urged to Ensure that "Daily-Use" Ceramic Tableware Produced in China Originates in a Certified Factory.** The FDA states that because it believes the consignments of ceramic tableware originating from CNCA-certified factories will have a higher likelihood of compliance with U.S. safety requirements than those originating from other,

non-certified factories in China, it intends to set its import inspection rates accordingly. Therefore, the FDA has previously stated that it encourages importers of ceramic tableware from China to take affirmative steps to ensure that such ware originates from CNCA-certified factories and that relevant import documents show CNCA-certified factory names, addresses, and codes for Customs and FDA reference and use at the time of import into the U.S. *FDA Information Sheet (updated 02/08/05) available at:*  
[www.cfsan.fda.gov/~comm/ceramic.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~comm/ceramic.html)