



Lanyards and Slow Cookers: A Look inside Two Very Different Products and the Manufacturing Teams behind the Scenes

Of all the inspections I've reviewed and observed, two in particular stand out to me: a shipment of lanyards bound for the US, and a shipment of portable slow cookers bound for the EU. These inspections are interesting both for their similarities and their differences, and they point to some important trends in the ever-changing landscape of quality control in China.

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Canton Fair - One of the tradeshow V-Trust took part in this autumn



Our technical supervisor with V-Trust's India Team

Vietnam Becoming A New Production Hub of the Region?

This October V-Trust took part in numerous fairs in China and Hong Kong. And it is remarkable that many of buyers note that they welcome the idea of shifting their importing destinations to other Asia countries. We decided to take a look at this trend and figure out the most common reasons for this recent tendency.



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Businesses are facing increasing pressure to meet environmental requirements as the war against pollution has its incremental impact.

It is expected that air pollution inspections in China will cover more regions in the coming winter. According to the Ministry of Ecology and the Environment enterprises in the industrial, energy, transport and land use will experience the most severe consequences, and measures to convert coal production into gas will continue along the coming months.

What Does the Outcome of Midterm Election Mean for the US-China Trade War?

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New RoHS Compliance Required for Electrical and Electronic Products

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Vietnam Becoming A New Production Hub of the Region?

It is remarkable that many of buyers note that they welcome the idea of shifting their importing destinations to other Asia countries. We decided to take a look at this trend and figure out the most common reasons for this recent tendency. It seems even before the trade war, increasing labor costs, a search for diversification and government focus shift from labor-intensive sectors to high-tech industries, have already been an incentive for businesses to consider other locations.

Vietnam has long been an attractive business opportunity also for different reasons. It is conveniently located in good proximity to major markets, has lower wages and relatively skilled labor force, regional connections with ASEAN. Not surprisingly, Vietnam has become one of the most preferred alternatives for manufacturers and importers.

“With recent tariff battles, companies aren’t as eager to have production in China,” says Nathan Resnick, CEO of startup company Sourcify. “We run production runs in India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Philippines and Mexico right now. Labor costs are actually more affordable outside of China, so for products like apparel where there is a lot of cut-and-sew labor, most companies are moving out of China anyway,” he says. In the electronics sector big-name producers like Intel, Foxconn, LG, and Samsung recently are also relocating to Vietnam. Although the role the tariffs played in this move cannot be certain.

So seems Vietnam is universally seen as one of the region’s most prospective new production hub. Here at V-Trust we have a well-established network of full-time inspectors and auditors working in Vietnam and are happy to support our customers with quality control in their new sourcing regions.

Stay tuned to the recent updates about Vietnam regulations and sourcing practical tips. More insightful information from our Vietnam country manager in our next newsletter!



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The outcome of U.S. midterm election is that Democrats took a majority in the House while Republicans retained control of the Senate. What does this mean for one of the President’s key areas of focus – international trade?

While the Democrats’ midterm victory in the House of Representatives will give them the power to oppose some of President Trump’s most unpopular initiatives, strategists agree that they are unlikely to oppose Trump’s protectionist agenda, and in some ways are even more protectionist than President Trump.

Both Democrats and Republicans support a tougher stance on Chinese trade and intellectual property practices and experts agree that it’s going to be the same if not worse in terms of the U.S.-China trade spat.

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There is a new Action Plan 2020 which ensures air pollution inspections to be not limited to the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, but to be also including Shanghai and cities in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces.

According to different sources, the central government is planning to send out two hundred teams totalling 18,000 inspectors and support staff who will participate in air pollution inspections from June 11, 2018 to April 28, 2019 to make sure this expanded area is covered.

It is always recommended to enquire a factory about the environmental regulation compliance beforehand and



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5 years at V-Trust Inspection Service
Fluent in Russian, English and Spanish



New RoHS Compliance Required for Electrical and Electronic Products from 2019

The RoHS expanded the list of prohibited substances to ten, by including four new types of phthalates to be restricted: DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP. These substances were used to soften plastics as plasticizers, and are already marked as “Substances of Very High Concern” for all of the products containing it (may be found in adhesives, inks, coatings, cables, polymer foils, PVC compounds, etc.)

Please mind that the restrictions will be applied to all Electrical and Electronic products entering the EU market stating July 22nd, 2019. V-Trust could help you to obtain a test report for new RoHS 10 substances – apply by contacting us.



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California Prop 65 Has A New Requirement for BPA in Food Contact Products

21 June 2018, the Official Journal of European Union released a directive 2018/885, amending the Annex VI of the regulation (EC) 1223/2009 on cosmetics products. This directive shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States and enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union (i.e. 11 July 2018).

The amendment will include the Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, Entry 23 is replaced by another entry and Entry 23a is inserted.

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Of all the inspections I’ve reviewed and observed, two in particular stand out to me: a shipment of lanyards bound for the US, and a shipment of portable precision cookers bound for the EU. These inspections are interesting both for their similarities and their differences, and they point to some important trends in the ever-changing landscape of quality control in China.

Growing up in America, it was pretty safe to assume that you could pick up any product within arm’s reach, look at the label, and it would say “Made in China.” As a little kid I knew China as “that place where everything is made.” At the same time, Chinese-made products were mostly associated with poor quality, cheap knock-offs, etc. So, when I got the opportunity to work at a quality control company in China, I figured the work would have to be pretty interesting.



As an Account Manager at V-Trust, I spend most of my days at our headquarters in Guangzhou, but I also make regular visits to factories and observe our inspectors doing their job, which is both a nice change of pace and an extremely valuable experience.

Of all the inspections I’ve reviewed and observed, two in particular stand out to me: a shipment of lanyards bound for the US, and a shipment of portable precision cookers bound for the EU. These inspections are interesting both for their similarities and their differences, and they point to some important trends in the ever-changing landscape of quality control in China.

Before arriving at the lanyard factory, I read over our client’s special requests and arranged to meet up with one of our inspectors specializing in textiles, Mr. Xu. Although the coming inspection involved 12 different styles of lanyards, he said the inspection today should be pretty straightforward.

Once we arrived at the location, we met the factory’s QC manager and a scrawny young man I assumed to be his assistant. After the standard small-talk, we got to work. Inside a clean, air-conditioned room the inspection started with the simplest of tasks: count the number of lanyards in each poly bag. According to the client’s specs, there should be 50 lanyards per bag, but the first bag totaled 45 units. The manager looked a little uneasy. A record was made, and our inspector moved onto the next bag, which had 47 units, and then the next bag which had 49. At this point, Mr. Xu started asking the manager questions about the packaging process—whether it’s automated or hand-counted, etc. One never really knows how management will react in these situations, but the manager immediately picked up the phone and called the production staff to tell them the problem. No arguing, no negotiating—it was clear that he took our inspection seriously.

Following our checklist for lanyards, next came the stress test. One after another, Mr. Xu pulled firmly at the stitching. After a while, the assistant said to me in Chinese “I’ve pulled on these as hard as I could. They don’t break.” And although this kid had pencil-like arms, he seemed to have a point. After testing over 50 units, all without a single defect, the test did feel a little redundant. I started thinking to myself “this factory clearly has years of experience making these; their internal QC team checks the stitching all day every day. What are the odds of our inspector actually finding a stitching defect on one of these?” And then a lanyard promptly broke at the seam. Everyone stopped what they were doing and looked at it. The manager walked over, took a picture of it, and sent it to the production staff. Ultimately the number of stitching defects was still within the Acceptance Quality Limit (AQL) set by our client, so the lanyards passed the stress test.

There were still plenty more tests to do for a variety of defects ranging from minor to critical. Of course, no lanyard inspection is complete without the logo check—making sure that there’s no blurry lettering, that the font is correct, that every word is spelled correctly, etc. The colors were compared to the PO specs to make sure they’re all exactly the right shade by using a pantone. There was the carton drop test and yet another stress test, this time for the metal latch using a tensile testing machine that measures the kilogram-force it can withstand. By the end of the day Mr. Xu finished all of his tests, wrote the report, and we left the factory.

As you might imagine, the precision cooker inspection looked quite different. For starters, the inspector I accompanied was an electrical appliance specialist and from different section of our technical department, but he too had special requests from the client and a product-specific checklist to carry out the inspection. Among other things, each unit in the sample selection has to be tested for electrical safety with hi-pot testing. If a single unit fails the test, the entire inspection is failed. Any defect that can affect the safety of a product is a critical defect. None failed our inspection (although the inspector told me a microwave he inspected yesterday did in fact fail). We proceeded to the next step, the internal check. The inspector picked up a screwdriver and took the entire thing apart, checking for common defects like inconsistent welding or rust. After that, it’s the full-function test. We read every page of the instruction manual and then made sure the actual product does everything the manual says it does. Does the cooker reach the maximum 90°C? Does the “E1” signal show when there isn’t enough water? Does the temperature go up when you press the up button? Does it operate at 1100 watts? One after the other, test after test, barcode after barcode, he checked each unit and filled in the checklist.

As with the lanyard inspection, V-Trust had a very specific checklist for the inspection, one of over 1400 we have ready to go for all kinds of products. The tests are all strict and quite repetitive, but that’s the point. That’s what quality control is. In most cases, the majority of the units tested don’t have even minor defects. While observing the inspections, it can feel quite monotonous seeing the same test performed hundreds of times in a row... that is, until something snaps, or the quantity isn’t right, or a unit fails the surge testing. Our inspectors find minor, major, and critical defects every day. It’s the inspector’s job to find the problems before the consumer does, and when you view it in this way, QC is anything but boring.

Chinese factories are also not the dystopian nightmares I’d pictured in my mind years earlier. Of course each factory is different, and there are many regions in China that aren’t as well-developed as mine. But the need for third-party QC in less established factories is obvious. The point is, there are plenty of great factories in China with very professional internal QC that welcome third-party inspections. Any QC team, whether it’s internal or third-party, knows that an extra set of eyes never hurts.

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Experienced in international trade and project management

Fluent in English and Mandarin

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