

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
TUV Rheinland/CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd.	)	ET Docket No. 25-269
Designation No. CN1237	)	
	)	
	)	

**ORDER INSTITUTING PROCEEDING TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION
AS AN ACCREDITED TEST LABORATORY**

Adopted: October 24, 2025

Released: October 24, 2025

By the Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Order, the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) institutes a proceeding to withdraw recognition of TUV Rheinland/CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd. (TUV/Ningbo or Company) as an accredited test laboratory pursuant to section 302(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), and sections 2.951(d) and (e) of the Commission’s rules.¹

II. BACKGROUND

2. *Legal Framework.* Section 302 of the Act authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (the Commission or FCC) to adopt rules, consistent with the public interest, governing the interference potential of equipment capable of emitting radio frequency (RF) energy.² The Act also allows the Commission to authorize the use of private organizations (test labs) to test for compliance with those rules, and to establish appropriate qualifications and standards for such test labs.³ The Commission will not recognize any test lab that fails to meet all of the appropriate standards, including standards that concern the integrity and trustworthiness of the test lab. The Commission’s rules, in part, “ensure that [test labs] that participate in [the FCC’s] equipment authorization program are not subject to ownership, direction, or control by untrustworthy actors that pose a risk to national security.”⁴

3. Section 2.951(d) of the Commission’s rules provides that the Commission will withdraw its recognition of any laboratory that is owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of a prohibited

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 302a(e); 47 CFR § 2.951(d), (e); *see Promoting the Integrity and Security of Telecommunications Certification Bodies, Measurement Facilities, and the Equipment Authorization Program*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 24-136, FCC 25-27, para. 94 (2025) (*Equipment Authorization Integrity R&O*).

² 47 U.S.C. § 302a(a); *see generally* 47 CFR pt. 2 subpt. J (equipment authorization procedures).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 302a(e)(1), (3); *see* 47 CFR § 2.948, 2.951.

⁴ *Promoting the Integrity and Security of Telecommunications Certification Bodies, Measurement Facilities, and the Equipment Authorization Program*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 24-136, FCC 25-27, para. 1 (2025).

entity, as defined by section 2.902 of the Commission's rules.⁵ Section 2.902 defines "owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of" to mean any entity

- (1) In which any other entity has direct or indirect ownership or control of 10% or more equity, voting interest, or stock;
- (2) In which any other entity directly or indirectly possesses or has the power (whether or not exercised) to determine, direct, or decide important matters affecting the subject entity; or
- (3) That acts as an agent or representative of another entity or acts in any other capacity at the order or request of another entity or whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in majority part, including being part of a governmental structure or hierarchy.⁶

Section 2.902 further defines "prohibited entities" to include entities identified as "foreign adversaries" by the Department of Commerce pursuant to 15 CFR § 791.4.⁷

4. *Factual Background.* On September 8, 2025, OET provided a notice to TUV/Ningbo stating:

TUV/Ningbo is an accredited test laboratory based in Ningbo, Zhejiang, China that is recognized by the FCC to test a wide range of RF devices for compliance with applicable FCC rules. According to the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), TUV/Ningbo's accreditation states that the laboratory is accredited in accordance with the recognized International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.¹² Since its initial accreditation, TUV/Ningbo has performed testing that contributed to hundreds of equipment certifications. TUV/Ningbo is connected to the Chinese government through its partnership with the China Certification & Inspection Group Co., Ltd. (CCIC Group), a state-owned enterprise. As a branch of the CCIC Group, TUV/Ningbo is directly tied to a state-owned enterprise with significant connections to and oversight from the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC or China). The U.S. Department of Commerce has determined that the PRC is a foreign adversary.⁸

5. The *Notice* further states:

The PRC is a prohibited entity that is identified within section 2.902 of the Commission's rules. OET has tentatively determined that TUV/Ningbo is owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of the PRC, a prohibited entity pursuant to sections 2.951(d)(1) and 2.902 of the Commission's rules. . . . TUV/Ningbo identifies itself as "TÜV Rheinland / CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd." and identifies its website address as "www.tuv.com" within test lab reports that it produces for FCC equipment certification applications. The TUV/Ningbo joint venture is subordinate to the CCIC Group. The CCIC Group's website lists China Certification & Inspection Group Ningbo, Co., Ltd., part of the TUV/Ningbo joint venture, as one of its subsidiaries in China. The CCIC Group is a state-owned enterprise, established with the approval of the State Council of the PRC and under the supervision of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC). SASAC exercises comprehensive control and oversight over state-owned assets and enterprises, with its functions directly mandated by the Central Committee of the

⁵ 47 CFR § 2.951(d)(1). "The Commission will notify a laboratory in writing of its intention to withdraw the laboratory's recognition and provide at least 30 days for the lab to respond." *Id.* § 2.951(e).

⁶ 47 CFR § 2.902.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *TUV Rheinland/CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd. Designation No. CN1237*, ET Docket No. 25-269, Notice of Intent to Begin Proceedings to Withdraw Recognition as an Accredited Test Laboratory, DA 25-796, para. 4 (OET Sept. 8, 2025) (*Notice*) (internal citations omitted).

Chinese Communist Party.⁹

6. The *Notice* further states that:

[OET] tentatively determine[s] that the PRC “directly or indirectly . . . has the power (whether or not exercised) to determine, direct, or decide important matters” that affect TUV/Ningbo because the PRC controls the State Council and SASAC, which in turn controls the CCIC Group. [OET] further tentatively determine[s] that TUV/Ningbo acts “at the order or request of another entity,” or is an entity “whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in majority part, including being part of a governmental structure or hierarchy.” TUV/Ningbo thus appears to be subject to control by and direction of China, via the CCIC Group, the SASAC, and the State Council of the PRC.¹⁰

7. The *Notice* provides TUV/Ningbo an opportunity to respond.¹¹ On October 14, 2025, TUV/Ningbo submitted a response stating that:

[T]he requirements for withdrawal under Sect. 2[.]951 (d)(1) and (e) of the FCC Rules are not satisfied as the company controlling the accredited laboratory is TÜV Rheinland (China) Ltd. (“TR”) rather than China Certification & Inspection Group Co., Ltd. (“CCIC”). TR is a Chinese entity indirectly controlled by TÜV Rheinland AG, a company organized under the laws of and domiciled in the Federal Republic of Germany. In this respect, the Company is not under the control or direction of a prohibited entity in the sense of Sect. 2[.]902 of the FCC Rules.¹²

8. TUV/Ningbo also submitted an unofficial English-language translation of its Articles of Association. According to the submitted document, CCIC was one of two shareholders in the company, and CCIC’s capital contribution to establishing the Company “account[ed] for 49% of the registered capital[.]”¹³ The document also states that CCIC was required to appoint two of the five directors on the Company’s board, and required certain matters to be decided by a unanimous vote of the board.¹⁴ The document further states that the interpretation and dispute resolution of Articles of Association “shall be governed by the relevant laws and regulations of the People’s Republic of China.”¹⁵

III. DISCUSSION

9. By this Order, OET concludes that TUV/Ningbo has not demonstrated why the Commission should not begin proceedings to withdraw its recognition as an accredited test laboratory. In its *Response*, TUV/Ningbo asserts that it is not under the control or direction of a prohibited entity under the Commission’s rules and does not address its ownership by a prohibited entity.¹⁶ TUV/Ningbo’s corporate governance document indicates that CCIC is a shareholder in the Company and contributed 49% of the founding capital in the Company.¹⁷ The Articles of Association also identify certain matters

⁹ *Id.* paras. 5-6 (internal citations omitted).

¹⁰ *Id.* para. 7 (internal citations omitted).

¹¹ *Id.* para. 8.

¹² *TUV Rheinland/CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd. Designation No. CN1237*, ET Docket No. 25-269, Response at 1 (filed Oct. 14, 2025) (*Response*).

¹³ *Response*, Articles of Association, TÜV Rheinland / CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd. (English translation), Chapter V, at 2 (“Chapter V. Name of Shareholders and Method and Amount of Capital Contribution, Article 6”).

¹⁴ *Id.* at 5-7 (Articles 18 and 23).

¹⁵ *Id.* at 11 (Article 41).

¹⁶ *Response* at 1.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 5-7 (Articles of Association, Articles 18 and 23).

that must be decided by a unanimous vote of the board of directors.¹⁸ The Commission's rules explicitly state that it will not recognize, and will withdraw recognition of, any laboratory that is owned by, or subject to the direction of a prohibited entity.¹⁹

10. Accordingly, OET initiates a proceeding pursuant to section 302(e) of the Act and sections 2.951(d) and (e) of the Commission's rules to reach a final determination on whether to withdraw recognition of TUV/Ningbo as an accredited test laboratory.²⁰ This proceeding affords the Company additional notice and opportunity to file a written response to demonstrate why the Commission should not withdraw its current recognition.

11. TUV/Ningbo must file a response within thirty-five (35) days after the release of this Order demonstrating why the Commission should not withdraw its recognition. Failure to timely respond or submit a response providing a reasonable basis for why the Commission should not withdraw its recognition may result in withdrawal of recognition. The Company's response must include a written detailed factual statement fully addressing whether the Company is owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of the People's Republic of China, including:

- (1) a complete and detailed description of the current ownership and control (direct and indirect) of the Company, including:
 - a. a description of the equity interest and voting interest for any individual or entity (all references to "entity" henceforth shall include any government entity) that holds 5% or greater direct or indirect interest in and/or controls the Company;
 - b. place of organization and primary location of each entity in the ownership structure;
 - c. an organizational chart that illustrates the company's vertical ownership structure, including the direct and indirect ownership (equity and voting) and controlling interests held by every individual or entity;
- (2) a detailed description of the Company's corporate governance and decision making, including a copy of all policies, contracts, and agreements concerning the company's corporate governance and decision making, and ability to appoint seats on the Board of Directors or manage other similar corporate governance systems or structures;
- (3) identification of all officers, directors, and senior management officials of each company; their employment history (including prior employment with the PRC government and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)); and their affiliations with the PRC government and the CCP;
- (4) the Company's compliance obligations with PRC laws, including but not limited to the China's 2017 Cybersecurity Law, 2017 National Intelligence Law, and 2019 Cryptography Law, as it relates to the Company's equipment testing activities.

12. Any response must be provided in English and must be accompanied by official business documents, including an English-language translation, that support the Company's position and by supporting sworn declarations of individuals with personal knowledge that are signed in accordance with section 1.16 of the Commission's rules.²¹ All documents must include the FCC docket number and lab designation number(s) referenced in the caption and be e-mailed to BadLabs25-269@fcc.gov and Jamie Coleman at jamie.coleman@fcc.gov. All submitted documents must be in English or include an English translation. The written statement must also be filed electronically in the docket referenced in the caption of this document using the Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>. Any request

¹⁸ *Id.* at 11 (Article 41).

¹⁹ 47 CFR § 2.951(b), (d).

²⁰ 47 U.S.C. § 302a(e); 47 CFR § 2.951(e).

²¹ 47 CFR § 1.16.

that material submitted not be made public may be submitted pursuant to 47 CFR § 0.459.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

13. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to section 302(e) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 302a(e), and sections 2.951(d) and (e) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 2.951(d) and (e), Telecommunications Technology Labs, TUV/Ningbo **MUST FILE** a written response to this Order within thirty-five (35) calendar days from the release date of this Order.

14. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a copy of this Order shall be sent by email to thorsten.keiter@tuv.com and feng.liang@tuv.com on the release date of this Order and also that a copy shall be sent by regular first-class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Thorsten Keiter and Feng Liang, TUV Rheinland/CCIC (Ningbo) Co., Ltd., 1st Floor, Building 11, Scholar Innovation Park, No. 1188 Zhongguan Road, Zhenhai District, Ningbo, People's Republic of China, 315200.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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