CPSC EFILING / U.S. IMPORTS / PRE-SHIPMENT CONTROL

CPSC Samples and Prototypes

SOURCE / CPSC + USITC + ECFR

SCOPE / 9811 · TIB 9813 · 9817

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A route and evidence control guide for identifiable units entering before commercial release.

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PERMANENT LINKS

Companion article

Guide collection

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THE SHORT ANSWER

Which facts control the route?

The invoice label does not choose the path. Purpose, consumer access, route conditions and disposition do.

01 Exclude sale, distribution and U.S. consumer use before testing a sample-only path.

02 Match the sole or exclusive purpose to 9811.00.60, TIB 9813.00.20 or 9817.85.01.

03 Keep unit identity, custody, restrictions, deadline and disposition in one evidence chain.

PRACTICAL RESULT

One candidate route—or STOP for missing, mixed or contradictory facts.

SCOPE BEFORE ACTION

Is the unit inside the sample-only boundary?

Consumer access is the first exclusion gate, not a detail checked after classification.

Record the exact unit or segregated lot, recipient and permitted users. A planned sale, giveaway, household trial or consumer test returns that unit to ordinary product-scope analysis.

Separate mixed-purpose units before applying a special path. A sole or exclusive purpose cannot be proved across an undifferentiated shipment.

Leaving sample-only analysis does not make eFiling automatic; product scope, certification and entry facts still control.

BOUNDARY

Do not use “Not for resale” as the decision.

A label can support the file. It does not prove purpose, consumer-access control or Chapter 98 eligibility.

OFFICIAL RECORD

What does CPSC require you to prove?

SRC-S10-001 / CLM-S10-001–003

“not intended for distribution” · “will not be used by U.S. consumers” · importer “must be able to demonstrate” those facts.

CPSC — EFILING FAQ — SAMPLE-IMPORT QUESTION — CURRENT HTML — ACCESSED AUG 27, 2026

WHAT THIS PROVES

This establishes the sample-only boundary and a proof expectation. It does not classify the shipment, select an HTS provision or supply a closed document list.

WORKFLOW

How do you screen one unit before shipment?

01 **IDENTIFY**

Fix the unit or lot, recipient, custodian, location and proposed use.

02 **EXCLUDE**

Rule out sale, distribution, consumer use, sale on approval and mixed purpose.

03 **TEST**

Apply every condition of 9811.00.60, TIB 9813.00.20 or 9817.85.01.

04 **CONTROL**

Record restrictions, deadline, custody and final disposition; route unknowns to STOP.

OUTPUT

A route candidate tied to the same units and retained evidence.

DECISION ROUTE

Which analysis comes next?

01	Sale, distribution or U.S. consumer use is planned.	**ROUTE-0 · Return to ordinary product-scope, certificate and eFiling analysis.**
02	No consumer access; sole purpose is soliciting or taking orders.	**ORDER PATH · Test 9811.00.60 and TIB 9813.00.20 separately.**
03	Exclusive development, testing, evaluation or quality-control purpose—or any fact is unresolved.	**PROTOTYPE / STOP · Test every 9817.85.01 condition; otherwise hold.**

DECISION BOUNDARY

A route is a broker-review candidate, not a binding classification or CPSC approval.

DECISION ROUTE

Which order-sample path is supportable?

01	Solely soliciting orders; each unit is no more than $1, or treated so it is unsuitable for sale or other use except as a sample.	**ROUTE-1 · Investigate HTS 9811.00.60.**
02	Solely taking orders; no sale or sale on approval; bond, deadline and closeout controls are workable.	**ROUTE-2 · Investigate TIB 9813.00.20.**
03	Value or treatment, sole purpose, sale restriction, bond, timing or closeout is not supported.	**ROUTE-STOP · Resolve facts with a licensed customs broker before shipment.**

DECISION BOUNDARY

CPSC’s option labels do not replace the tariff conditions.

STRUCTURED COMPARISON

Route control matrix

ID	REQUIREMENT	EVIDENCE	ACTION
01	ROUTE-0 · Consumer-facing use	Recipient + use	Ordinary analysis
02	ROUTE-1 · 9811.00.60	Purpose + $1/treatment	Broker review
03	ROUTE-2 · TIB 9813.00.20	No sale + bond/deadline	Track closeout
04	ROUTE-3 · 9817.85.01	Purpose + stage + quantity	Check exclusions
05	ROUTE-STOP · Unresolved	Missing/contradictory fact	Hold shipment

SOURCES: SRC-S10-001, SRC-S10-004, SRC-S10-009 AND SRC-S10-010.

KNOWN / UNKNOWN

Can a mixed-purpose shipment use one route?

KNOWN

Verified facts

- The shipment contains identified precommercial units.
- Some units support order solicitation or internal evaluation.
- Custody and intended recipients are recorded.

UNKNOWN

Blocking gaps

- Consumer-access units are not segregated from special-path units.
- One purpose is not exclusive across the whole lot.
- Final disposition and route controls are not tied to each unit.

CURRENT STATUS

ROUTE-STOP · Segregate units, resolve purpose and rebuild the evidence chain before entry.

ERROR AND RECOVERY

What if purpose or custody changes after entry?

01	**CAUSE**	Trigger · A recipient, use, location, quantity, deadline or disposition plan no longer matches the supported route.
02	**CONSEQUENCE**	Effect · The prior candidate cannot be carried forward by label or paperwork alone; TIB timing and prototype restrictions may be affected.
03	**CORRECTION**	Action · Restrict access, preserve the changed facts, obtain broker guidance and re-test the route before transfer, sale, use or closeout.

RECOVERY BOUNDARY

Correction is complete only when the same unit, route condition and disposition record agree again.

BEFORE YOU ACT

Evidence-chain readiness check

- [ ] 01 Identity · Unit or segregated lot is stable across invoice, entry, custody and closeout records.
- [ ] 02 Purpose + access · Sole or exclusive purpose, recipient and permitted users exclude consumer distribution or use.
- [ ] 03 Eligibility · Every route-specific value, treatment, bond, stage, quantity and exclusion fact is supported.
- [ ] 04 Control · Custodian, location, deadline or restriction and change triggers are assigned.
- [ ] 05 Disposition · Final outcome is planned; any missing or contradictory fact routes to STOP.

SOURCES AND METHOD

Sources actually used

S01	CPSC · eFiling FAQ Accessed Aug 27, 2026	CURRENT	Sample-only boundary, proof expectation and Option I/II/IV direction.
S02	USITC · HTS Chapter 98 · 2026 Rev. 17 Accessed Aug 27, 2026	CURRENT	Conditions for 9811.00.60, 9813.00.20 and 9817.85.01.
S03	eCFR · 19 CFR 10.37 · 10.39 Accessed Aug 27, 2026	CURRENT	TIB extension, export, destruction and closeout controls.

METHOD BOUNDARY

Checked U.S. official sources and the approved dossier through Aug 27, 2026. This guide does not classify a shipment, decide product-specific CPSC scope, set universal forms or amounts, or provide legal advice.

EACH FINAL SOURCE ENTRY MUST INCLUDE ITS EXACT URL AND ACCESS DATE.

CONTINUE WITH VERIFIED CONTEXT

Use the full article before acting.

Apply this guide to one identifiable unit, then use the companion article for complete route conditions, source limits and FAQs.

Read the companion article

Open the guide collection

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