Minority Supplier Development in China

MSDChina SME Certification and Development Program Frequently Asked Questions from Purchasing Corporations

Updated in February 2026

Preview of the Questions

1. How long does it take to certify, and is renewal required?
2. How does the certificate look like? Does it tell the business size and valid period.
3. What is the difference of MSDChina certificate vs Publicly Available Information?
4. I'm not yet MSDChina Corporate Member, can my SME suppliers benefit?
5. How for the supplier to start the application? What will they get after being certified.
6. Does the program apply to foreigners who run businesses in China.

Question 1:
How long does it take to certify, and is renewal required?

- Initial certification is typically completed within three months.
- Certification is valid for one year, and annual renewal is required to maintain active status.

Question 2:
How does the certificate look like? Does it tell the business size and valid period.

As shown in the attached bilingual certificate sample, the certificate clearly indicates:

- The verified business size classification (Micro, Small, or Medium)
- The issue date and expiration date.

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Question 3:
What is the difference of MSDChina certificate vs Publicly Available Information?

- Trusted, standardized verification: unlike fragmented public records, the MSDChina SME Certificate is based on a structured and consistent verification process. During the program pilot period from August to December 2025, we identified 50% discrepancies between certification results and publicly available information previously referenced by corporate sourcing teams.

- Procurement-ready SME confirmation: the certificate clearly confirms verified SME eligibility and validity, making it easier to apply internal SME or inclusive sourcing policies. The application process also includes a pre-qualification criteria of supplier experience serving Global Fortune 500 companies.

- Reduced due diligence burden: the certification process is fully managed by MSDChina and requires no hands-on involvement from sourcing teams, helping reduce internal screening workload while ensuring reliable verification.

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Question 4:
I'm not yet MSDChina Corporate Member, can my SME suppliers benefit?

- For suppliers: Eligible SMEs are welcome to apply and join the MSDChina network.
- For corporates: Corporate membership enables formal recognition of the certificate and structured tracking of SME spend within the MSDChina framework.

Question 5:
How for the supplier to start the application? What will they get after being certified.

Suppliers may register online in approximately 30 seconds to begin the process: https://www.msdchina.org.cn/SMEs

Upon certification, suppliers receive:

- Official third-party SME recognition
- Increased visibility among MSDChina corporate members
- Access to training, development resources, and engagement opportunities

Question 6:
Does the program apply to foreigners who run businesses in China.

Yes. The certification criteria apply to all legally registered businesses in China, regardless of ownership nationality.

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