Imports & compliance 13 Nov 2026 8 min read

Anti-dumping on aluminium windows: the price gap is real. So is the uPVC compliance gap.

Chinese aluminium windows and doors now carry anti-dumping securities of up to 73.3%. Chinese uPVC windows still come in duty-free. The market will follow the price. The question is whether the compliance evidence follows it too — AS 2047 test reports, ICP accreditation and thermal modelling to the NCC.



By **Dave Morehouse**, founder, AFRC Lab

What window system is on your spec right now — aluminium or uPVC? If you're importing, specifying or pricing windows from China, the answer you gave in September may not be the one you give in December. On **15 October 2026** the rules for **imported aluminium windows** changed, and **uPVC windows** didn't.

What changed: anti-dumping on Chinese aluminium windows

The Australian Trade Remedies Commission (the renamed Anti-Dumping Commission) published a preliminary affirmative determination in Investigation 691 into aluminium windows and doors exported from China. It found dumping margins of 5.3% to 70.4%, plus subsidies for some exporters. From 15 October, importers have to lodge **securities** at the border before the goods are released:

73.3%	24.4%	5.3%
uncooperative and all other unlisted exporters	cooperating exporters not individually examined	lowest individually assessed rate; one exporter is exempt

The goods are broad: aluminium windows and doors, **fully or partially assembled**, glazed or unglazed, thermally broken or not — including frames and sashes shipped for glazing in Australia. Aluminium extrusions from China have carried measures for years. This is the first time the **finished window** has been targeted.

Two things to be clear on. These are **securities, not final duties** — the Commission's final report is due to the Minister on **16 December 2026**, with a decision expected within about 30 days. And the rate that applies depends on the exporter. But no one is pricing a 2027 job on the hope that the measures disappear.

uPVC windows from China: 0% duty, no case

uPVC windows are plastic articles, not aluminium, so they sit outside Investigation 691 entirely. Under the China–Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) they enter at a **0% customs duty** with valid origin documentation. As at November 2026 there is no anti-dumping case on uPVC windows on the Commission's public record.

What Chinese windows actually cost: factory-gate prices

To check the numbers, we reviewed about **130 advertised listings** on China's two main export marketplaces in November 2026, focusing on windows marketed to Australian standards, plus one Foshan manufacturer's 2026 price survey. These are asking prices in US dollars per m², not negotiated contract prices.

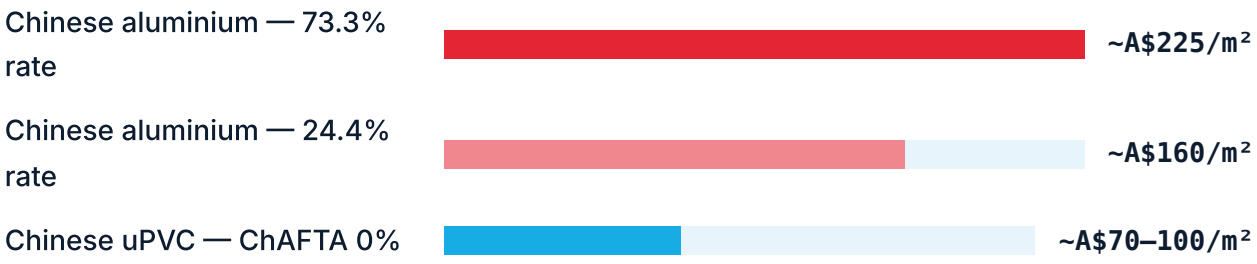
Source (Nov 2026)	Aluminium	Thermally broken	uPVC
Made-in-China, suppliers tagged "AS2047" (90 listings)	**median $92** most $45–135	median $78 $30–135	1 listing
Made-in-China, "Australia Standard" windows (15)	**median $119** $48–230	$126–132	—
Made-in-China, aluminium window prices (13)	**median $80** most $50–142	—	—
Made-in-China, PVC window prices (20)	—	—	**median $50–87** $20–300
Alibaba, uPVC and Australian-standard listings	units unclear	—	$47–105
George Group (Foshan) 2026 price survey	$25–150	$80–315	$29–179

US$ per m², advertised. Most listings don't state ex-works or FOB, or the glass included, and minimum orders are often 1–10 m². "AS2047" in a listing title is a sales claim, not a test report.

Two things stand out. Both frames sit in the same broad **US$30–150/m²** band. But at the median, uPVC is advertised **cheaper** than aluminium marketed to Australian standards — around US$50–70 against US$90–120. So uPVC started ahead on price before the securities. Now add them.

The landed cost of uPVC windows vs aluminium

Converted at about 0.70 US$ to the Australian dollar, the medians are roughly **A$130/m² for aluminium** and **A$70–100/m² for uPVC**. Apply each security rate:



Median advertised factory-gate price (AFRC Lab review of ~130 listings, Nov 2026) × the security rate, at A$1 = US$0.70. Freight, clearance, GST, installation and margin are extra and roughly the same for both frames. Your supplier's price and your exporter's rate will move these numbers.

On a worst-case exporter the gap is now around **A$125–155 per square metre**. Even on a cooperating exporter it's A$60–90. That doesn't close with a better freight rate or a sharper quote. It's **structural**, and it arrived in October. Want to check your own job? Take your supplier's factory price, multiply by 1 + your exporter's rate, and compare.

> The price gap between Chinese aluminium and Chinese uPVC is real. The compliance gap is too.

The market will shift. Will the compliance shift with it?

Some of that switch has already happened. Builders and importers who were bringing in aluminium are pricing uPVC, and some are buying it. The problem is that the evidence an Australian certifier asks for doesn't come in the container. In our experience, most uPVC systems entering Australia right now arrive with **none** of the three things below.

1. AS 2047 test report

`structural · water · air`

2. ICP accreditation

`uPVC profile · Australian sun`

The NCC references AS 2047 for windows and external glazed doors: wind load, water penetration and air infiltration, tested on the system and sized to the site's wind class. A European or Chinese test to a different standard isn't the same report.

The uPVC window profile Industry Code of Practice, developed by the Vinyl Council of Australia and supported by AGWA, checks the profile itself for Australian conditions — formulation, UV and weathering, impact and colour hold. It's the industry's answer to "will this frame last under our sun?"

3. Thermal modelling to the NCC

`Uw · SHGC · condensation`

Section J (commercial) and the housing energy provisions need a total-system U-value and SHGC for the window, calculated to ISO 15099 / NFRC 100. Condensation management (F8 / H4), widened in NCC 2025, adds the inside surface temperature. A brochure Uf or an EN rating isn't that number.

And for some jobs

`fire · bushfire`

Combustible frames in Class 2+ buildings need a fire pathway — see uPVC windows and fire. In bushfire-prone areas the BAL rating applies to the window as well.

uPVC is a good frame. It insulates, it runs a warm inside face, and on uPVC vs aluminium windows it starts with a real thermal advantage. But a warm frame is a material property. The certifier signs off on **evidence**, and none of these three can be filled in from a datasheet.

What importers and specifiers should ask for now

- ✓ **The AS 2047 report** for the actual system and its tested size and pressure — not a sister product, not a different standard.
- ✓ **The ICP certificate** (or equivalent evidence) for the profile, if you're relying on it lasting in Australian UV.
- ✓ **Uw and SHGC to ISO 15099 / NFRC 100** for the window and glass you're actually buying, at the sizes on the job.
- ✓ **A condensation check** at the coldest line of the frame — fRsi as a screen, the Mould Index where F8 / H4 needs it.
- ✓ **Fire or BAL evidence** where the building class or site calls for it.

If you're the importer, getting this in place before the first container lands is far cheaper than finding out at certification. Our pathway to compliance sets out the order we'd do

it in, and how we work with uPVC window companies covers the thermal and condensation side. Selling in from overseas? Start at selling windows into Australia.

Anti-dumping and uPVC windows: common questions

Are uPVC windows subject to anti-dumping duty in Australia?

No. Investigation 691 covers aluminium windows and doors from China only. uPVC windows from China enter at 0% customs duty under ChAFTA with valid origin documentation, and as at November 2026 there is no anti-dumping case on uPVC windows. Check with your customs broker for your own shipments.

What is the anti-dumping duty on Chinese aluminium windows?

From 15 October 2026 importers lodge securities of 5.3% to 73.3% depending on the exporter: 24.4% for cooperating exporters not individually examined and 73.3% for uncooperative and other unlisted exporters. The final report is due 16 December 2026, then the Minister decides on final measures.

How much do Chinese uPVC windows cost compared with aluminium?

Advertised factory prices on China's export marketplaces (November 2026) put uPVC windows at a median of about US$50–70/m², against about US$90–120/m² for aluminium windows marketed to Australian standards. After the anti-dumping security, aluminium at the 73.3% rate works out at roughly A$225/m² against A$70–100/m² for uPVC, before freight, GST and installation. These are indicative figures from advertised listings, not quotes.

Do imported windows need to comply with AS 2047?

Yes. The NCC references AS 2047 for windows and external glazed doors, so an imported window needs test evidence to AS 2047 for structural, water and air performance at the site's design pressure, whatever country it was made in.

What is ICP accreditation for uPVC windows?

ICP is the uPVC window profile Industry Code of Practice developed by the Vinyl Council of Australia and supported by AGWA. It accredits uPVC profiles for Australian conditions — material formulation, UV and weathering, impact and colour retention — with ongoing auditing.

Do uPVC windows need thermal modelling for NCC Section J?

The NCC needs a total-system U-value and SHGC for the window, calculated to ISO 15099 / NFRC 100. That comes from a rating or from modelling the actual window and glass. Condensation management (F8 / H4) also looks at the inside surface temperature, which has to be modelled for the real frame.

Switching to uPVC? Send us one window.

Send us the system you're bringing in or specifying. We'll model one window free to ISO 15099 — Uw, SHGC and the condensation screen — and tell you plainly where the rest of the compliance pathway stands.

Sources

- Australian Trade Remedies Commission, TRN 2026/147 — preliminary affirmative determination, Investigation 691
- Statement of Essential Facts SEF 691
- DFAT — China–Australia Free Trade Agreement
- Made-in-China — AS2047 window suppliers; Australia Standard windows; aluminium window prices; PVC window prices (all viewed 13 Nov 2026)
- Alibaba — uPVC windows; Australian standard windows (viewed 13 Nov 2026)
- George Group — How much do windows and doors from China cost? 2026 price breakdown
- ABCB — National Construction Code
- Vinyl Council of Australia

About AFRC Lab. AFRC Lab (Advanced Fenestration Research & Certification) is an independent, product-neutral fenestration consultancy. It is not the AFRC and is not affiliated with WERS or the Australian Fenestration Rating Council. This article is general information, not trade, customs or legal advice. Anti-dumping figures are preliminary securities as published on 15 October 2026 and may change at the final decision; confirm rates for your exporter with a licensed customs broker. Price figures are advertised marketplace asking prices reviewed in November 2026, converted at about A$1 = US$0.70; they are indicative, not quotes. Where testing or certification is required it is delivered through our accredited specialist partners. Modelled results are indicative to the systems and sizes provided, and final NCC compliance is confirmed by your assessor or certifier. BTW™ and TIRS™ are trademarks of AFRC Lab Pty Ltd.