



Mr. Mohamed Nabil HAMMOU. CEO

Introduction to the Shipping Container Approval Process

The process of approving shipping containers is governed by the CSC 1972 convention, an international treaty that aims to ensure the safety of containers used in maritime transport. This process ensures that containers comply with international safety standards and ensures the safety of people and goods transported.



Definition of the CSC 1972 convention

The International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) 1972 is an international treaty that defines safety standards for maritime containers. It was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and entered into force in 1977. The convention aims to harmonize safety regulations for containers used in international transport.

1 Key objectives

The CSC aims to ensure that containers are safe for maritime transport, to minimise the risk of damage or injury, and to facilitate international trade.

2 Shared responsibility

The Convention establishes clear responsibilities for the various stakeholders in the approval process, including container manufacturers, owners and operators.

Scope of the CSC 1972 Convention

The CSC 1972 Convention applies to all containers used in international maritime transport. It covers all types of containers, including dry containers, reefer containers, tank containers and flat containers.

Exceptions

The Convention does not apply to containers used for domestic transport. However, countries may choose to apply the CSC Convention to containers used in domestic transport.

Minimum standards

The convention establishes minimum safety standards for containers. Countries can adopt stricter standards, but they cannot be less strict than those of the CSC convention.



Responsibilities of stakeholders in the accreditation process

The container approval process involves multiple stakeholders, each with specific responsibilities. These stakeholders work collaboratively to ensure that containers meet CSC safety requirements.

1

Manufacturers

Container manufacturers are responsible for designing and manufacturing containers that meet CSC requirements.

2

Inspection bodies

Independent inspection bodies are responsible for inspecting containers and verifying that they meet safety standards.

3

Competent authorities

The competent authorities of each country are responsible for approving containers and issuing approval certificates.



Technical requirements for container approval

To be approved, containers must meet a number of technical requirements. These requirements cover various aspects, such as structural strength, safety features and markings.

Structural strength

Containers must be strong enough to withstand the loads and stresses they are subjected to during transport. The walls, roof and floor of the container must meet specific requirements for thickness and strength. Containers are tested to ensure they can withstand vertical, horizontal and torsional loads.

Safety devices

Containers must be equipped with safety devices to prevent accidents and injuries. This includes securing systems, locking devices and anchor points. The securing systems must be sufficiently robust to ensure that the containers remain attached to the vessels during transport. The locking devices must prevent the container doors from being opened unintentionally. Anchor points are used to secure the containers to railway wagons and trucks.

Markings

Containers must be clearly marked with essential information, such as the container identification number, load capacity, date of manufacture and country of origin. This information must be visible and legible to facilitate identification and tracking of the container.

Container Inspection and Testing Procedure

Containers must undergo rigorous inspection to ensure they meet CSC safety requirements. This inspection is carried out by approved independent inspection bodies.

1

Visual inspection

The visual inspection includes examining the walls, roof, floor, doors and safety devices for any damage or defects. Inspectors check the general condition of the container, for corrosion, cracks, deformation and any other damage.

2

Stress test

Containers undergo stress tests to ensure they can withstand the loads and stresses they are subjected to during transport. These tests involve applying static and dynamic loads to the container to simulate real-world conditions of use. Measuring instruments are used to monitor the container's deformations and reactions.

3

Leak test

Containers must be watertight and airtight to protect goods during transport. Inspectors perform leak tests to ensure that container doors and seals are in good condition.



Obtaining the certificate of approval

Once the container has successfully passed the inspection and testing, the inspection body issues a certificate of approval.

This certificate validates the container's compliance with the CSC requirements and authorizes its use in international transport.



Valid

The certificate of approval is valid for a specific period, usually 2 years. The validity of the certificate is indicated on the document.



Renewal

To keep the container approved, the owner must submit the container for renewal inspections and tests before the certificate expiration date.



International

The certificate of approval is valid in all countries that are signatories to the CSC convention. This allows the containers to be used in international transport without restriction.



Validity and renewal of the approval certificate

CSC approval certificates have a fixed period of validity, usually two years. Renewal of the approval certificate is necessary to ensure that the container remains compliant with safety standards.

Source: CSC Approved Body, 2023, 2024

Regular inspection

Containers must be subject to periodic inspections by approved inspection bodies.

Source: CSC Approved Body, 2023, 2024

Mandatory tests

Strength, leak-tightness and other tests may be required to verify container compliance.

Source: CSC Approved Body, 2023, 2024

Certificate renewal

If the container meets the inspection and testing requirements, the approval certificate is renewed.

Source: CSC Approved Body, 2023, 2024



Sanctions and measures in the event of non-compliance

If a container does not meet CSC requirements, it may be refused shipment. The container owner may also be subject to penalties, such as fines or imprisonment.

1

Denied boarding

Port authorities and shipping companies have the right to refuse shipment of containers that do not comply with CSC requirements.

2

Financial sanctions

Owners of non-compliant containers may be subject to substantial fines. Fines vary by country and violation.

3

Legal procedures

In some cases, owners of non-compliant containers may face legal action and prison sentences.



Conclusion and summary of key points

The process of approving shipping containers is essential to ensure the safety of maritime transport. The CSC 1972 convention establishes the minimum safety standards for containers and defines the responsibilities of the various stakeholders.



Compliance

Containers must comply with CSC requirements to be approved.



Non-compliance

Containers that do not comply with CSC requirements may be refused shipment.