



ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2017-12 (14 December 2017)

IMO Convention For Safe Containers

In 1972, convinced that there was a need to ensure that all containers circulating in International trade were of sound design, construction and maintenance, the United Nation's International Maritime Organization (IMO) published the Convention for Safe Containers (CSC).

Within it, are mandatory requirements that all container owners must adhere to, in order to have their containers carried aboard most vessels engaged in the container trades.

For instance:

- Each container's design must be approved by the national authority (in the case of U.S owned containers, the U.S. Coast Guard);
- Each container must be fitted with a Safety Approval Plate, which sets out the container's safe working tolerances;
- Each container must be enrolled within a program that either provides for a complete structural examination of the container at least once in every 30 months, or be enrolled in a continuous examination program (ACEP) that is approved by the national authority.

Within Annex II of the CSC, there are mandatory structural safety requirements and tests which must be observed and undertaken for each such container.



The required tests deal with:

- Lifting from corner fittings
- Lifting by additional methods
- Stacking
- Concentrated floor/roof loads
- Transverse racking
- Longitudinal restraint
- End wall strength
- Side wall strength
- One door off operation

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

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