
CONTAINER CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION SERVICES

ABS offers certification services through the *ABS Rules for Certification of Cargo Containers* and international standards and regulations, which allow freight transported in intermodal containers to freely move between multiple modes of transportation such as road, rail and ship. ABS provides independent, third-party certification of the structural integrity of cargo containers, including those transporting dangerous goods.

Additional related certification services offered through the ABS Rules include:

- Refrigeration machinery certification
- Corner casting certification
- Chassis certification

BENEFITS OF ABS CONTAINER CERTIFICATION

ABS has been involved in the standardization and certification of the intermodal container since its inception. Drawing on our experience setting technical standards for the maritime industry, ABS has developed Rules in accordance with industry regulations and recognized standards from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations (UN) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ABS offers its clients the following benefits:

- Worldwide inspection staff located in nearly 200 offices in 70 countries
- One-stop certification to the applicable regulations, codes or standards necessary for the worldwide operation of containers
- Verification of the container's structural integrity in compliance to applicable Rules and regulations



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- Guidance for reduced cargo handling
- Guidance on security improvements
- Guidance on reducing damage and loss
- Reassurance of due diligence and the knowledge that ABS is recognized by underwriters and financial institutions, as required, in lease or financial transactions

ABS CONTAINER CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Request

A Container Certification Application (CTR AB 200) must be submitted before ABS engineering and inspection work can begin. The container application is a web-based form located on the ABS website www.eagle.org; for assistance in locating or completing the form, please email ABSContainers@eagle.org.

Engineering

- Once the application is received, the design goes through Design Assessment.
- The ABS Engineer reviews the design drawings, specifications and technical documents in accordance with the requested certifications. An engineering review letter will be returned with a container test agenda attached, if required.
- Next, the design goes through Prototype Testing in accordance with the container test agenda and witnessed by an ABS Surveyor.
- Upon a successful prototype test, an ABS Design Assessment is issued to the design.

Factory Approval

- A manufacturing facility must obtain Factory Approval.
- The ABS Surveyor reviews the factory's quality control manual and audits the quality control system and manufacturing process. During this step, the ABS Surveyor determines hold points in the manufacturing process.
- Prior to any production and upon a successful audit, the ABS Surveyor issues a Factory Approval Certificate valid for five (5) years subject to annual audits.

Inspection

- Next, the ABS Surveyor regularly visits the facility to monitor the quality control system and manufacturing process based on the pre-determined hold points.
- An application identifying each container by serial number is to be submitted for certification of a unique (or batch) container.

- Upon completion of a specific container, the ABS Surveyor will perform a document review and witness testing (if applicable) and perform a visual inspection to mark and certify the container.

CODES AND STANDARDS

Container certification services conducted by ABS cover internationally recognized agreements, standards and codes related to intermodal and marine containers and their transportation, including:

- AAR Association of American Railroads
- ABS Rules for Certification of Cargo Containers
- ADR European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
- ATO Agrotechnological Research Institute
- CSC International Convention for Safe Containers
- IMDG International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code
- ISO International Organization for Standardization
- RID International Regulations Concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail
- TCT Australian Department of Health - Wood Treatment Regulations
- TIR Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets
- TPED Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive
- UIC International Union of Railroads
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture
- USDOT US Department of Transportation



To learn more about ABS container certification, please contact your local ABS office or e-mail ABSContainers@eagle.org.



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