

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR SAFE CONTAINERS (CSC)

### Preamble

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECOGNIZING the need to maintain a high level of safety of human life in the handling, stacking and transporting of containers,

MINDFUL of the need to facilitate international container transport,

RECOGNIZING, in this context, the advantages of formalizing common international safety requirements,

CONSIDERING that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Convention,

HAVE DECIDED to formalize structural requirements to ensure safety in the handling, stacking and transporting of containers in the course of normal operations, and to this end

HAVE AGREED as follows:

### Article I

#### General obligation under the present Convention

The Contracting Parties undertake to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and the annexes hereto, which shall constitute an integral part of the present Convention.

### Article II

#### Definitions

For the purpose of the present Convention, unless expressly provided otherwise:

1. „Container“ means an article of transport equipment:
  - (a) of a permanent character and accordingly strong enough to be suitable for repeated use;
  - (b) specially designed to facilitate the transport of goods, by one or more modes of transport, without intermediate reloading;
  - (c) designed to be secured and/or readily handled, having corner fittings for these purposes;
  - (d) of a size such that area enclosed by the four outer bottom corners is either:
    - (i) at least 14 sq.m (150 sq. ft.) or
    - (ii) at least 7 sq.m. (75 sq. ft.) if it is fitted with top corner fittings;

The term „container“ includes neither vehicles nor packaging; however, containers when carried on chassis are included.

2. „Corner fittings“ means an arrangement of apertures and faces at the top and/or bottom of a container for the purposes of handling, stacking and/or securing.
3. „Administration“ means the Government of a Contracting Party under whose authority containers are approved.
4. „Approved“ means approved by the Administration.
5. „Approval“ means the decision by an Administration that a design type or a container is safe within the terms of the present Convention.
6. „International transport“ means transport between points of departure and destination situated in the territory of two countries to at least one of which the present Convention applies. The present Convention shall also apply when part of a transport operation between two countries takes place in the territory of a country to which the present Convention applies.
7. „Cargo“ means any goods, wares, merchandise and articles of every kind whatsoever carried in the containers.

8. „New container“ means a container the construction of which was commenced on or after the date of entry into force of the present Convention.

9. „Existing container“ means a container which is not a new container.

10. „Owner“ means the owner as provided for under the national law of the Contracting Party or the lessee or bailee, if, an agreement between the parties provides for the exercise of the owner's responsibility for maintenance and examination of the container by such lessee or bailee.

11. „Type of container“ means the design type approved by the Administration.

12. „Type-series container“ means any container manufactured in accordance with the approved design type.

13. „Prototype“ means a container representative of those manufactured or to be manufactured in a design type series.

14. „Maximum Operating Gross Weight or Rating“ or „R“ means the maximum allowable combined weight of the container and its cargo.

15. „Tare Weight“ means the weight of the empty container including permanently affixed ancillary equipment.

16. „Maximum Permissible Payload“ or „P“ means the difference between maximum operating gross weight or rating and tare weight.

### Article III

#### Application

1. The present Convention applies to new and existing containers used in international transport, excluding containers specially designed for air transport.
2. Every new container shall be approved either in accordance with the provisions for type-testing or for individual testing as contained in Annex I.
3. Every existing container shall be approved in accordance with the relevant provisions for approval of existing containers set out in Annex I within 5 years from the date of entry into force of the present Convention.

### Article IV

#### Testing, inspection, approval and maintenance

1. For the enforcement of the provisions in Annex I every Administration shall establish an effective procedure for the testing, inspection and approval of containers in accordance with the criteria established in the present Convention, provided however that an Administration may entrust such testing, inspection and approval to organizations duly authorized by it.
2. An Administration which entrusts such testing, inspection and approval to an organization shall inform the Secretary-General of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization for communication to Contracting Parties.
3. Application for approval may be made to the Administration of any Contracting Party.
4. Every container shall be maintained in a safe condition in accordance with the provisions of Annex I.
5. If an approved container does not, in fact comply with the requirements of Annexes I and II the Administration concerned shall take such steps as it deems necessary to bring the container into compliance with such requirements or to withdraw the approval.