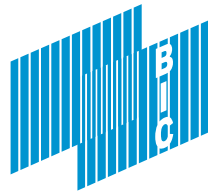


GLOBAL  
**ACEP**  
DATABASE



**[www.bic-acep.org](http://www.bic-acep.org)**

A non-profit platform ensuring full transparency to the  
global container inspection scheme



**Approved Continuous Examination Program (ACEP)**

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## **Approved Continuous Examination Program (ACEP)**

### **What is ACEP**

The Approved Continuous Examination Program (ACEP) is the container inspection scheme utilized by most major ocean carriers and container lessors to ensure ongoing safety compliance of containers. In response to container safety concerns, maritime administrators are required to publish a list of all valid ACEP's, to audit ACEP-holders on a regular basis and to renew ACEP's every 10 years. The Global ACEP Database was built to address these new requirements, bringing all ACEP data into one centralized database and ensuring full transparency for all concerned parties.

### **Why the BIC**

As a non-profit, neutral, international NGO focused on the intermodal container industry and with over 40 years experience in performing such functions for the container industry, the BIC is pleased to have been asked to host the Global ACEP Database with the support of many IMO member states. The BIC has been the industry's global container prefix registration authority since 1972 – a service it performs under a mandate from the ISO that is referenced in international customs conventions. The BIC holds consultative status with the IMO and is a partner organization of the World Customs Organization.

The BIC operates the Global ACEP Database under the guidance of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which has encouraged all National Administrations to utilize the database for the publication of their ACEPs (see CSC.1/CIRC.143 and CSC.1 CIRC.138/REV.1)

**The Global ACEP Database is operated by the BIC – a non-profit organization serving the container transportation industry. Founded in 1933, the BIC has been the international container owner code registration authority since 1972.**

### **Benefits of a global database**

#### **Safety:**

In intermodal transportation containers are interchanged constantly: Carriers, terminals, barge rail and road operators regularly accept containers belonging to many different parties – including operators that may be unfamiliar. Containers are bought, leased, sub-leased and moved on SOC basis. Knowing that each container is covered by a valid maintenance and repair plan with regular inspections is critical to guaranteeing the safety of shipboard and shore-side personnel, as well as the general public.

#### **Operations:**

A Global Database allows for rapid consultation of ACEP numbers and operators to ensure an ACEP is valid – anywhere in the world. Moreover, the CSC allows a container operated by an operator with a valid ACEP number to continue its current voyage, even if the ACEP number decal is missing from the container. Allowing control officers an easy way to verify validity eliminates potential delays.

#### **Visibility:**

A Global Database provides full visibility of ACEP programs to all interested parties and keeps Operators, Administrations and Approving Competent Authorities all on the same page through both instant online visibility and automated notifications of approaching expiration dates.

### **Contact Us**

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