Regulations of 2 April 1984 No. 827 on testing, inspection, approval and maintenance, etc. of containers

Legal basis: Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Authority on 2 April 1984 under the Act of 17 December 1984 No. 84 relating to safe containers section 1 fifth paragraph, sections 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10, cf. Royal Decree of 17 December 1982 No. 1743, Crown Prince Regent's Decree of 11 November 1983 No. 1606 and Formal Delegation of 17 November 1983 No. 4271.
Amendments: Amended by Regulations of 4 June 2002 No. 1082, 26 June 2025 No. 1372.

Section 1
Scope of application

(1) These Regulations shall apply to new and existing containers used in transport to or from Norway or in transit across Norway and on Norwegian ships abroad, unless otherwise specified in the individual provisions.

(2) Testing, inspection, approval and maintenance, etc. of containers in accordance with these Regulations are subject to the requirements and procedures in force at the time as provided in the Container Convention. The provisions of these regulations do not apply to containers specially designed for transport by air.

(3) Containers that are not subject to these Regulations may be subject to Regulations of 17 January 1978 No. 4 concerning cargo-handling appliances in ships (included in *Excerpts from the Norwegian Passenger and Cargo Ship Legislation, etc.,* published by the Norwegian Maritime Authority), or Regulations of 7 March 1974 No. 1 concerning hoisting arrangements and hoisting equipment (order No. 291, issued and enforced by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority).

Section 2
Definitions

For the purpose of these Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a) "*Container Convention*": International Convention for Safe Containers of 1972, with relevant appendices and as amended.

b) "*Container*": An article of transport equipment that is:
   1. of a permanent character and strong enough to be suitable for repeated use;
   2. specially designed to facilitate the transport of goods, by one or more modes of transport, without reloading;
   3. designed to be secured and/or readily handled, having corner fittings for these purposes; and
   4. of a size such that the area enclosed by the four bottom corners is at least 14 sq. metres (150 sq.ft), or if it is fitted with top corner fittings, at least 7 sq. metres (75 sq.ft.).

c) "*Type of container*": The design type approved by the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it so authorizes.

d) "*Owner*": The owner pursuant to the legislation in force at the time, or the lessee or bailee, if an agreement between the owner and the lessee or bailee provides for the exercise of the owner's responsibility for the maintenance and examination of the container by such lessee or bailee.

e) "*Existing container*": A container that is not a new container.

f) "*g*": Acceleration of the mass.

g) "*Approval*": The decision by the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it so authorizes that a design type or a container is safe within the terms of these Regulations.

h) "*Approved*": Approved by the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever the Authority so authorizes.

i) "*Corner fittings*": An arrangement of apertures and faces at the top and bottom of a container for the purposes of handling, stacking and securing.

j) "*Cargo*": Goods, wares, products and articles of every kind whatsoever carried in a container.

k) "*Maximum Operating Gross Weight or Rating*": Maximum allowable combined weight of the container and its cargo.

l) "*Maximum Permissible Payload, or 'P'*": The difference between maximum operating gross weight or rating (R) and tare weight.

m) "*New container*": A container the construction of which was commenced on or after the date of entry into force of these Regulations.

n) "*Prototype*": A container representative for those manufactured or to be manufactured in a design type series.

o) "*Tare Weight*": The weight of the empty container including permanently fixed ancillary equipment.

p) "*Type-series container*": Any container manufactured in accordance with the approved design type.

Section 3

Exemptions

(1) The Norwegian Maritime Authority may, in individual cases and upon written application, grant exemption from the requirements of these Regulations. There must be special reasons that make the exemption necessary and it must be justifiable in terms of safety. Exemptions can only be granted where they do not contravene international agreements to which Norway has acceded.

(2) The authorized institution may, in consultation with the Norwegian Maritime Authority, permit exemptions, etc. as mentioned in the first paragraph.

Section 4

Safety approval plate

(1) A safety approval plate complying with the specifications in the Container Convention shall be permanently affixed to every approved container at a readily visible place, adjacent to any other approval plate issued for official purposes, where it will not be easily damaged.

(2) The plate shall contain the following information in at least the English or the French language:

a) "CSC SAFETY APPROVAL".
b) Country of approval and the approval reference.
c) Date (month and year) of fabrication.
d) Manufacturer's identification number of the container, or, in the case of existing containers where this number is unknown, the number allotted by the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes.
e) Maximum operating gross weight (kg and lbs).
f) Allowable stacking weight for 1.8 g (kg and lbs).
g) Transverse racking test load value (kg and lbs).
h) On every container where fabrication started after 1 January 1984, the value of the maximum gross weight shall be inserted in the place reserved for the maximum gross weight on the safety approval plate.
i) On every container where fabrication started before 1 January 1984, the value of the maximum gross weight shall be inserted in the place reserved for the maximum gross weight on the safety approval plate by 1 January 1989.

(3) A blank space should be reserved on the plate for insertion of end-wall and/or side-wall strength values (factors) in accordance with the tests prescribed in the Container Convention. A blank space should also be reserved on the plate for the maintenance examination dates (month and year) if the plate is used for this purpose.

(4) When the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes considers that a new container satisfies the requirements of the Container Convention in respect of safety, and if, for such a container, the end-wall and/or side-wall strength wall value (factors) is designed to be greater or less than that stipulated in the Container Convention, this value shall be stated on the safety approval plate.

(5) The fact that a safety approval plate in accordance with this section is affixed to the container does not remove the necessity to display such labels or other information required pursuant to other rules or regulations which may be in force.

Section 5

Maintenance and owner's control

(1) The owner of a container shall be responsible for maintaining it in a safe condition.

(2) The owner of an approved container shall examine it or have it examined in accordance with the procedure prescribed or approved by the Norwegian Maritime Authority, or whosoever it authorizes, at reasonable intervals appropriate to the operating conditions. Every examination shall be of a type which will establish whether the container has defects or faults which may place any person in danger.

(3) In the case of new approved containers, the interval from the date of manufacture to the first owner's control shall not exceed five years, and subsequent examinations shall be conducted at intervals not exceeding 30 months. The date of the first owner's examination after approval shall be marked on the safety approval plate.

(4) In the case of existing containers approved pursuant to section 9 of these Regulations, the first owner's examination shall take place within 30 months of the date of approval.

(5) The dates of subsequent owner's controls pursuant to the second and third paragraphs shall be marked on the safety approval plate, or as close to the plate as possible.

(6) A record shall be kept of owner's examinations which have been conducted. This record shall state the time and place of the examination, who has carried out the examination, and any defects or faults which have been discovered. The owner shall keep the record for five years.

Section 6

Application for approval

(1) A written application for approval of the container shall be submitted to the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes.

(2) When applying for type approval, the application shall be accompanied by drawings and design specifications of the type of container to be approved. The application shall further be accompanied by a declaration from the manufacturer confirming acceptance of the obligations specified in section 7 second paragraph, subparagraphs a to f.

(3) When applying for approval of existing containers, the following information shall be submitted:

a) date and place of manufacture;
b) manufacturer's identification number of the container if available;
c) maximum operating gross weight;
d) the following evidence:
    1. evidence that a container of this type has been safely operated in maritime and/or inland transport for a period of at least two years, or
    2. evidence to the satisfaction of the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes that the container is manufactured to a design type which has been tested and found to comply with the technical conditions set out in the Container Convention, with the exception of those technical conditions relating to side-wall or end-wall strength tests, or
    3. evidence that the container was constructed to standards which, in the opinion of the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes, were equivalent to the technical conditions set out in the Container Convention, with the exception of the technical conditions relating to side-wall or end-wall strength tests;
e) allowable stacking weight for 1.8 g (kilograms and lbs); and
f) such other data as are required for the safety approval plate.

Amended by Regulation of 26 June 2025 No. 1372.

Section 7

Design type approval – new containers

(1) In the case of type approval of new containers, the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes shall witness testing of a prototype in accordance with the rules laid down in the Container Convention. If the container satisfies the requirements specified in the Convention, the prototype is approved, and the manufacturer thus has the right to affix the safety approval plate to all containers of this type series.

(2) In connection with the approval, the manufacturer is under obligation to:

a) make available to the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes, such containers of the design type concerned as the Authority or whosoever it authorizes may wish to examine;
b) advise the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes of any change in the design or specification and await approval of the change before the safety approval plate is affixed to the container;
c) affix the safety approval plate to each container in the design type series and to no others;
d) keep a record of containers manufactured to the approved design type. This record shall at least contain the manufacturer's identification numbers, dates of delivery and the names and addresses of customers to whom the containers are delivered;
e) establish satisfactory internal production control to ensure that the containers produced conform to the approved prototype;
f) inform the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes before manufacture of a new series of design type approved containers is started.

(3) The Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes may approve containers manufactured as modifications of design type containers, provided that the person approving the container is satisfied that the modifications do not affect the validity of the tests conducted in connection with the approval of the design type.

(4) In order to make sure that containers of the same type series are manufactured to the approved design, the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes may examine or test as many units as considered necessary at any stage during production of the design type series concerned.

Section 8

Individual approval of new containers

(1) Approval of individual containers may be granted when the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes, after examination and witnessing of tests, is satisfied that the container meets the requirements in respect of design, strength, etc, in accordance with the Container Convention.

(2) When the approval has been granted, the applicant may affix the safety approval plate to the container concerned.

Section 9

Approval of existing containers

(1) Approval of existing containers may be granted when the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes has investigated the material submitted pursuant to section 6 third paragraph and found this satisfactory.

(2) When an applicant has received written notification from the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes that the approval has been granted, the safety approval plate may be affixed to the container, after an examination has been conducted in accordance with section 5.

(3) Existing containers which do not qualify for approval under the first paragraph, may be presented for approval in accordance with the provisions in section 7 or section 8 of these Regulations. For such containers, the requirements in the Container Convention relating to end-wall and/or sidewall strength tests shall not apply. The Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes may, if satisfied that the containers in question have been in service, waive such of the requirements in respect of presentation of drawings and testing as considered appropriate, other than the lifting and floor-strength tests.

Section 10

Control and effect of defects in the containers

(1) In Norway, approved containers are subject to control by officials duly authorized for this purpose. The control of containers approved by or on behalf of another state which has ratified the Container Convention shall be limited to verifying that the containers carry a valid safety approval plate in accordance with the requirements of the Container Convention, unless there is significant evidence for believing that the condition of the container is such as to create an obvious risk to safety. In that case, the official carrying out the control shall only exercise it in so far as it may be necessary to ensure that the container is restored to a safe condition before it continues in service.

(2) If it is found that an approved container does not comply with the requirements of the Container Convention, the Norwegian Maritime Authority or whosoever it authorizes may prohibit the use of the container until it is restored to a condition where it complies with the said requirements, and may, if necessary, withdraw the approval. The Norwegian control authorities may only withdraw an approval granted by Norwegian control authorities.

(3) If a container approved by or on behalf of another State is in such condition as to create an obvious risk to safety, and there is reason to believe that the defect existed when the container was approved, the authority which granted the approval shall be notified.

(4) Prohibition of the use of unsafe containers shall be addressed to the person responsible for the condition of the container, and, if necessary, to the person who decides the use of the container in the individual case.

Amended by Regulation of 26 June 2025 No. 1372.

Section 11

Penalty

Wilful or negligent violation of these Regulations is punishable by fines or prison up to three months under section 9 of the Act of 17 December 1982 No. 84 relating to Safe Containers, unless a more severe penalty is applicable pursuant to another statutory provision.

Section 12

Entry into force

(1) These Regulations enter into force on 1 May 1984.

(2) New containers shall comply with the requirements of these Regulations by 13 September 1984.

(3) Existing containers shall satisfy the requirements of these Regulations by 1 January 1985.