



## What is the ACORD TCF?

The ACORD Testing and Certification Facility (TCF) is a live application which you, as a developer, can interact with in order to test and certify your implementations of ACORD messages. TCF has two modes: message only certification and business trading partner certification. The message only certification simply checks your XML message to see if it follows the various rules required by the standards. However, with the "virtual" business partner, you can send ACORD messages to the TCF, it will validate the messages, and then the TCF will send back responses indicating acceptance or error(s). The TCF, in this mode, can also trigger messages to be sent to you.

ACORD staff support you in your testing, monitoring your test messages at a detailed level and then helping you analyze successful and unsuccessful tests. If you are new to Web services and/or ACORD messaging and need more help, ACORD also offers implementation assistance at a daily rate.

When you are ready to apply for certification of your messages, we will clear your test environment and then monitor your messages as you go through the suite of certification tests required.

## Scope

### Technical Standards Supported:

- ACORD Messaging Service (AMS) Web services, including support for secure https sessions, authentication, and digital signatures
- ACORD Cross Domain Document Repository Interface (DRI)

### Business Message Standards Supported:

- ACORD Life, Annuity & Health XML Standard
- ACORD P&C/Surety XML Standard
- ACORD Reinsurance/Large Commercial XML Standard

### Reinsurance/Large Commercial Details:

- ACORD RLC Placing XML message
- ACORD RLC Accounting XML messages (Technical and Financial accounts)
- ACORD RLC Claims XML messages

### Implementation guides supported:

- ACORD DRI
- ACORD Placing
- ACORD Accounting and Claims (incorporating the Electronic Back Office Trading - Ebot)

### Sample of implementation initiatives supported:

- London ELPAN phase 1 (brokers sending electronic closing documents to XIS)
- London ELPAN2 (brokers sending ACORD accounting messages to XIS)
- London Electronic Claim File (brokers sharing claims supporting documents with carriers)

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- Placing implementations - within London and elsewhere, including:
    - o London "phase 1" one-way messaging
    - o London "phase 2" two-way messaging
- International accounting and claims implementations (following ACORD Accounting and Settlement Quick Reference Guide)
- International exchange of electronic documents (live in the US, European, Bermudan and London markets)
- Claim notification and settlement implementations (live in European and US markets)

## Using the TCF

To use the TCF for business message only validation, go to <http://tcf.acord.org>

To use the TCF as a virtual trading partner, follow these steps:

- 1 Contact ACORD ([tcfadmin@acord.org](mailto:tcfadmin@acord.org)) to set up a discussion of testing requirements
- 2 Perform initial connectivity testing. Details such as URL, IP address, Company identifier code(s), etc must be exchanged between yourselves and ACORD first.
- 3 Start testing - fixing bugs and re-testing as necessary until you are confident your system works
- 4 Once you are happy your system works, apply to ACORD for certification

## Cost for using TCF

Usage of the facility for testing is free to ACORD members. Certification of messages will be charged at the standard ACORD rates (based on a "per message" charge - please contact ACORD for latest rates). If problems arise during either testing or certification and you would like assistance from ACORD resources, help is available at a daily rate.

## Frequently asked questions

### Will my existing certifications remain valid?

Yes, all existing certifications will remain valid. However new certifications that have been processed by the TCF will have this specifically stated on the certificate itself. You may find that your trading partners require you to obtain certifications that have been processed via the TCF.

### Does the TCF support current document exchange initiatives, such as in London?

The TCF supports the latest DRI rules (2007). It supports all existing and new document exchange initiatives (e.g. it supports the current ECF and A&S initiatives within London).

### Does the TCF support current RLC Placing initiatives?

The TCF fully supports Placing implementations within London and internationally.

### Does the TCF Support Life and PCS messages?

These standards are supported today, however, only at the business message level. To access the testing for these environments, go to <http://tcf.acord.org>.

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