



Your Comprehensive (A C I) Guide

Information that interests you



- The ACI system is implemented on marine imports only.
- The mandatory implementation applies on the date of shipping goods to Egyptian seaports.
- These are the import procedures under the new ACI system.
- An account on Nafeza platform must be created, the electronic signature must be obtained, and data must be pre-registered.
- Information and documents related to goods are electronically submitted through Nafeza platform.
- ACID number is valid for 6 months and is issued for every shipment separately.
- Customs brokers may request ACID number and proceed with the customs procedures by an official power of attorney or an electronic authorization from the person concerned.
- GS1 or part number needs to be stated in the commercial invoice.
- The importer must submit all documents related to the customs registration application "46 K.M."
- An ACID number cannot be obtained after shipment departure.
- More than one electronic signature for one company is issued if it has multiple sub-accounts.
- The foreign exporter registration number is the tax number or the commercial registration number from the country of export.
- More than one invoice can be electronically uploaded in one file on the Blockchain under the ACID number.
- The carrier must place the ACID number on the bill of lading and the manifest.
- The foreign exporter registers his company's data on the Blockchain once.
- The importer cannot create an account on the Blockchain on behalf of the foreign exporter.
- Cargo rejection grievances must be submitted within three business days.

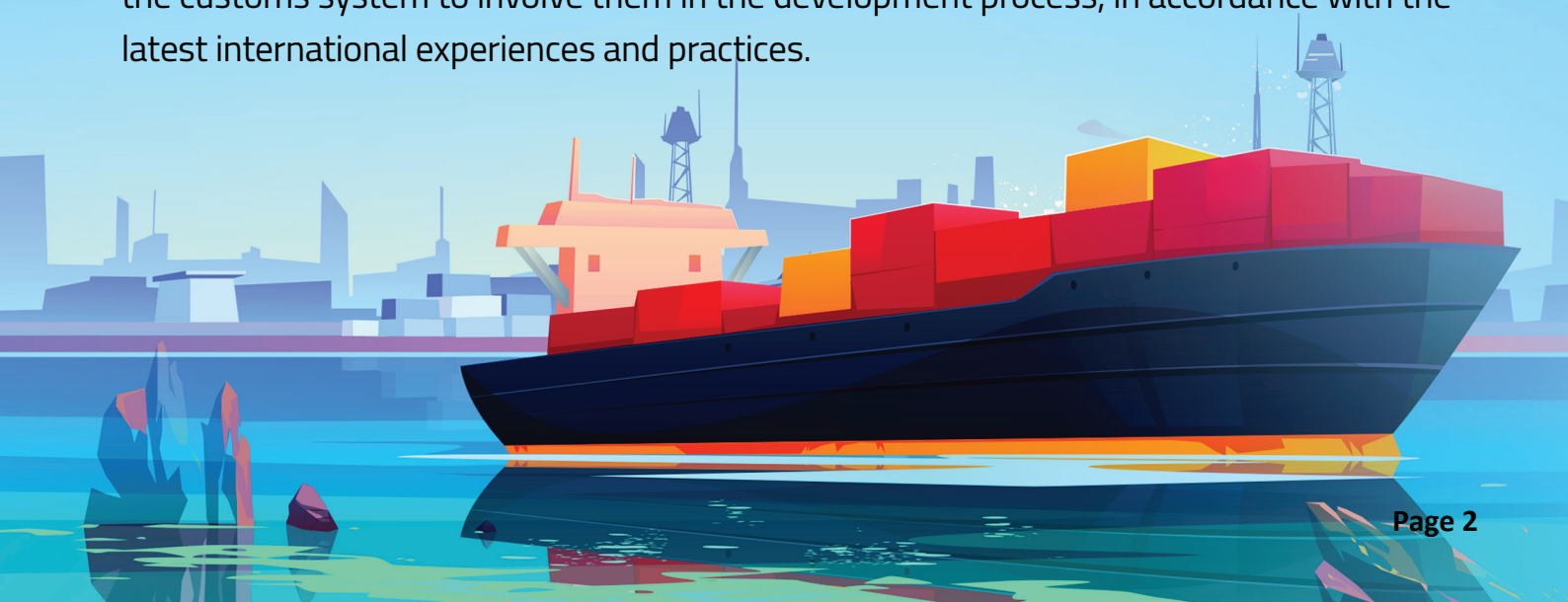
About **ACI**

The pilot implementation of the ACI system began on April 1, 2021, and the binding application was scheduled to start on July 1, 2021. The pilot implementation period was extended until September 30, 2021, in order to give importers and their agents including customs brokers, Egyptian exporters and multinationals a final opportunity to register with the new system before mandatory application, and to conduct further experiments to achieve the desired alignment between importers and foreign exporters.

In accordance with the directives of Dr. Mohamed Maait, Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Authority, in cooperation with the Egyptian Company for E-Commerce Technology (MTS), have strived to enhance communication with the business community and provide full technical support to importers, customs brokers and owners of maritime agencies, in order to help them register in the ACI system, through providing training materials on the Nafeza YouTube channel, at **<https://www.youtube.com/NafezaEgypt>** as well as online training courses that can be registered for at the following link: **<https://www.cutt.us/8RNo7>**

Participation in the regular meetings held on Mondays and Thursdays of each week at the Ministry's headquarters allowed participants to discuss and work through any challenges, or attending the practical training at the Ministry's headquarters on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., which offered immediate assistance in registering on the system. The training can also be attended online.

The Ministry of Finance and the Customs Authority, in cooperation with MTS, received many inquiries about the ACI system via their communication channels, which we are publishing along with the answers below, in order to enhance customers' awareness of the customs system to involve them in the development process, in accordance with the latest international experiences and practices.



FAQs

1- Does the ACI system apply to Egyptian exports?

No, according to the Decision of the Minister of Finance no. 38 of 2021, the ACI system applies to imports via maritime ports only.

2- If the shipment arrives on October 1st, should it have an ACID number?

No, the ACI system will apply to shipments that will be shipped from abroad as of October 1st, 2021, as per the Decisions of the Minister of Finance no. 38 and 328 of 2021.

3- What are the documents required to register on Nafeza?

The documents required to register on Nafeza are: Commercial Register, Tax Card, Customs Customer Card. Visit Nafeza for more information at:
<https://www.nafeza.gov.eg/ar/register>

4- Who is responsible for registering on Nafeza?

The concerned party, or his agent, from customs brokers, shipping agents, or container trading companies, can register on the Nafeza platform.

5- Can the electronic signature of the person who signs the tax invoice be used when signing documents on Nafeza platform?

Yes, if the same person who enters the pre-shipment data and registered on Nafeza, is the one who has to sign the tax invoice. Otherwise, it is necessary to issue an electronic signature for him.

6- Can more than one electronic signature be issued per company?

Yes, if there is more than one electronic account on Nafeza, an electronic signature is issued for each company account.

7- How many digits does ACID have?

19 digits only.

8- What is the role and authority of the person holding the sub-account?

The sub-account can handle certificates associated with its clearance license number, while the main account can view all company certificates, determine the authority and create the sub-accounts.

9- Does Nafeza system dispense with the original documents?

In accordance with Ministerial Decision no. 490 of 2021, electronic shipment documents (the commercial invoice, the packing list, and the bill of lading...etc.) are accepted in accordance with the ACI system within the customs release documents in the 46 register, as long as the importer or his custom clearance agent has approved them as documents for the shipment using the electronic signature. The customs release procedures are carried out according to the certificate of origin received electronically, provided that the original certificate is submitted before the final

customs release, until the approval procedures are accepted electronically.

- According to the Executive Regulation issued by the Decision of the Minister of Finance no. 430 of 2021, Article 366, which stipulates: "Except for customs sites where the electronic system (Nafeza) has not yet been implemented, digital and electronic documents shall be submitted and handled electronically, unless there is an objection accepted by the Minister or his authorized representative." Also, Article 242 stipulates that copies of documents submitted to the Authority may be accepted and the adopted customs procedures may be processed, provided that the goods are not released until after the original documents are submitted, even through newly developed electronic means. Articles 232 and 233 also stipulate not to re-submit documents that were already submitted electronically.

10- What is the validity period of the ACID number?

The validity period of the ACID number starts from its date of issuance and for a period of 6 months. This period may be extended, for justified reasons, for a similar period following the approval of the competent minister or his authorized representative (Paragraph I of Article 198 of the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law).

11- Is the ACID number fixed on all shipments if the Pro-Forma invoice reflects the total and has been divided over more than one shipment?

The ACID number is issued for each shipment separately.

12- Is there a maximum limit to ACID numbers that can be obtained?

There is no limit.

13 How can the maritime agent obtain the shipment's ACID number and how can its validity be checked?

A maritime agent can obtain an ACID number through the foreign exporter or the shipping documents included in it before shipping. He can also access Nafeza to verify it and see its expiry date.

14- Is the ACID number included in the health certificate, certificate of origin, and Euro 1 certificate, knowing that these certificates are governmental and have a fixed form? What should be done if the ACID number is registered on some, but not all, documents?

By virtue of Customs Law no. 207 of 2020 and its Executive Regulation no. 430 of 2021 on proving the identification numbers of the Egyptian importer and foreign exporter and the identification number of the ACID shipment, please note the following:

The identification numbers of both the Egyptian importer (the tax number) and the foreign exporter (the tax number or the commercial registration number) must be shown on both the commercial invoice and the bill of lading.

The ACID number is sibilated on all shipment documents (the commercial invoice, the packing list, the bill of lading, the certificate of origin "if any," health/veterinary/ examination/other certificates issued from abroad). In the event that the issuer of this document is unable to prove the ACID number with his own knowledge, the foreign exporter, with his own knowledge, prints or writes the number on a sticker and places it on the document.

15- Can the invoice be entered after shipment of the goods to obtain the ACID number?

No, as it is necessary to get the ACID number first and send it to the foreign exporter to set the data and documents of the shipment and then send them electronically on the Blockchain platform.

16- What data is required to be included in the bill of lading?

The ACID number, the ID numbers of the parties to the business process, both exporter and importer, as well as the main data of the shipping bill of lading recognized among customs customers.

17- Will items be listed manually or on PDF?

The items will not be listed manually and will be entered electronically through the electronic invoice. Foreign exporters can send readable invoices to the Blockchain platform if they are unable to send the invoices on Excel as required, to be treated as structural data in the Nafeza system that is handling this platform free of charge for a period of 6 months. The format of the invoices will be transferred to Excel and sent to Nafeza to handle such data. Importers wishing to benefit from this service will be obliged to send exporters 5 invoices for each exporter as soon as possible to the Nafeza system by email to: e-invoiceACI@MTS-EGY.com so they can be assisted in this regard.

18- When is the declared value determined?

The declared value shall be determined after obtaining the ACID number and before submitting the customs certificate for the customs registration application 46 k.m. directly.

19- Is there a specific time when the person concerned can no longer automatically attach any document?

It becomes no longer possible to attach any document automatically when the importer or his representative requests registration in the 46 register, without prejudice to the right of customs to request any additional documents.

20- What is the role of the customs broker in the ACI system?

Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of Finance no. 38 and the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law, the customs broker can apply for the ACID number and proceed with the customs pre-clearance procedures by virtue of an official authorization/electronic authorization from the person concerned.

21- Is it permissible to place the part number on invoices for goods that do not have a GS1, such as fresh fruits?

Yes, the shipment content can be clarified in terms of item data, including the global code number for each item, whether it is the GS1 standards or any other global system of standards. In the absence of a global code number for any GS1 item, the part number is specified, according to the nature of the item received. (Article 198 of the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law, Paragraph x)

22- How will the ACI system be applied to shared containers?

In the case of consolidation bills of lading, each sub-bill of lading has its own ACID number. Each importer with a sub-bill of lading informs the Egyptian shipping agent of its ACID number. The Egyptian shipping agent, after collecting the sub-bills of lading and ACID numbers for each importer, requests the ACID number for the combined policy. The Egyptian shipping agent then informs the foreign shipping agent of this number to record it in the consolidation bill of lading issued by the shipping carrier.

23- What are the procedures taken if there is an increase of goods not mentioned in the commercial invoice when they arrive at the import port ?

The Customs Law No. 207 of 2020 and its executive regulations on decrease or increase shall be applied.

24- What is the maximum time to upload documents electronically on the Blockchain platform?

A document can be uploaded as soon as it is available. Data and documents are uploaded by the foreign exporter on the Blockchain platform until the date of the application for the Customs Registration and the Customs Registration Request 46 k.m.

25- Who will upload the inspection certificates issued by external entities?

The exporter may upload any available document, and the importer may also attach any other inspection certificates sent to him by the supplier after the shipment arrives.

26- Is the foreign exporter registration number, his tax registration number or its registration number on the Blockchain?

The registration number of the foreign exporter is the tax number or the commercial register number in the country of export.

27-Should more than one invoice exist; how will the exporter include them on the BlockChain Cargo X platform?

As stipulated in the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law issued by Ministerial Decision no. 430 of 2021, Article 198, Paragraph (j), the foreign exporter or producer must send the shipment data and documents electronically. Accordingly, if the exporter is sending more than one invoice, the foreign exporter must:

a. Send each invoice as a separate pdf file so that this file can be converted into a data format in an Excel sheet (provided that the conversion form has been prepared) – <https://www.nafeza.gov.eg/en/pages/27>

b. Send electronic data in an Excel Sheet for the electronic invoice form for the Nafeza system - the electronic invoice link is attached - with a PDF file attached to each invoice separately. <https://www.nafeza.gov.eg/en/pages/27>

28- Why is the importer not allowed to submit documents instead of the foreign exporter?

The foreign exporter must send and upload documents and data to the Nafeza system through the Blockchain platform, in accordance with the provisions of the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law, Articles 196-1988.

29- Does the manufacturer that is supplying the goods need to be registered on the Blockchain?

The foreign exporter must register on the Blockchain platform so that the authorized importer can pre-register the incoming shipment when using his account at Nafeza.

30- Will the carrier have any role in the process of sending shipping documents and invoices from the exporter to Nafeza system through the BlockChain Cargo platform?

Article 197 of the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law specifies the obligations of the carrier as follows:

- 1- Electronically submitting information, documents, and shipping lists of goods shipped to ports inside the country to the Authority through the Nafeza platform.
- 2- Ensuring that the ACID number is included in the shipping documents of goods imported to the country, as well as the identification numbers of bills of lading.

31- Are customs customer names in English?

Customs customer data is in Arabic.

32- Does the customer data contain the tax number for each customer?

Yes.

33- Can the invoice number be changed?

The invoice number can be changed before shipping.

34- Can the quantity be adjusted after shipment and after getting the ACID number and before vessel arrival?

The amendment is allowed after the issuance of the ACID number, except for the data of the parties to the trade exchange, before shipping. In addition, the data listed can be modified after shipping by submitting a request to the customs upon obtaining the customs certificate number, in accordance with what is followed and recognized by the customs.

35- In the event that the exporting company only extracts the initial invoice and the final invoice, but the other documents (the bill of lading, certificate of origin, health certificates, and package information) are in the name of the product, what name is registered in the new ACI system?

What matters is whoever issued the invoice, rather than the producer, as all documents are sent to the invoice issuer to upload them to Nafeza system through the BlockChain CargoX platform.

36- What happens if the customer number "Company Number" is not verified even though the number is correct?

The Customs Department must be referred to to verify the validity of the data in order to be able to complete the registration process on Nafeza.

37- Can the customs broker list the data of the owner?

Yes based on an official authorization or an electronic authorization from the concerned party to the clearance company.

38- Who is in charge of listing incoming shipments to the ministries?

The concerned party's representative or a customs broker who is authorized electronically.

39-The ACI is applied on the personal shipments? Who requests the ACID for personal shipments (Data entry)?

Personal shipments have no exceptions, how to deal with personal shipments:

The Egyptian freight forwarder “who takes the responsibility for sending personal shipments’ documents from abroad’ by getting the ACID through registering the Importer and his ID number (For Egyptians) or the passport number (Foreigners), as he enters the items details.

Nafeza platform generates the ACID to the freight forwarder (the actual consignee’s delegate) right after filling the mentioned data in the 1st point.

The freight forwarder notifies the shipping line with the ACID to print it on the documents.

Note: In the case of absence of an Egyptian freight forwarder, the broker for the importer does the same mentioned procedures in point (1,2,3).

40- How is the foreign exporter registered on the Blockchain platform, and should registration be done once or more times?

The foreign exporter registers his data and company on the Blockchain one time only at <https://www.cargox.io>

41- Is the field of the applicant mandatory or is the data of the customs declaration applicant only sufficient?

The applicant’s field is automatically filled according to the listing account, and the custom declaration applicant is added.

42- Can the importer create an account on behalf of the foreign source on the Blockchain platform?

No.

43- Who uploads the bill of lading with the ACID number on Nafeza? Is it the shipping agency, the exporter, or the importer?

The foreign exporter uploads the shipment documents on the BlockChain CargoX.

44- What happens if the shipment is completely rejected?

According to the provision of Paragraph (e) of Article 198 of the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law, the importer, the owner of the goods, or his agent from customs brokers, may file a grievance within three working days from the issuance of the Authority’s decision to reject the shipment. The Authority will study the grievance within two working days and respond by accepting the grievance and issuing the shipment identification number or rejecting it and clarifying the reason for rejection.

45- Can customs items be changed?

Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of Finance no. 38 of 2021, Article Three, Paragraph no. 7, it is allowed to amend the shipment data after issuing the ACID number, except for the data of the two parties to the trade, before shipment. This is confirmed by the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law issued by Ministerial Decision no. 430 of 2021.

46- Should the customs item be placed on invoices?

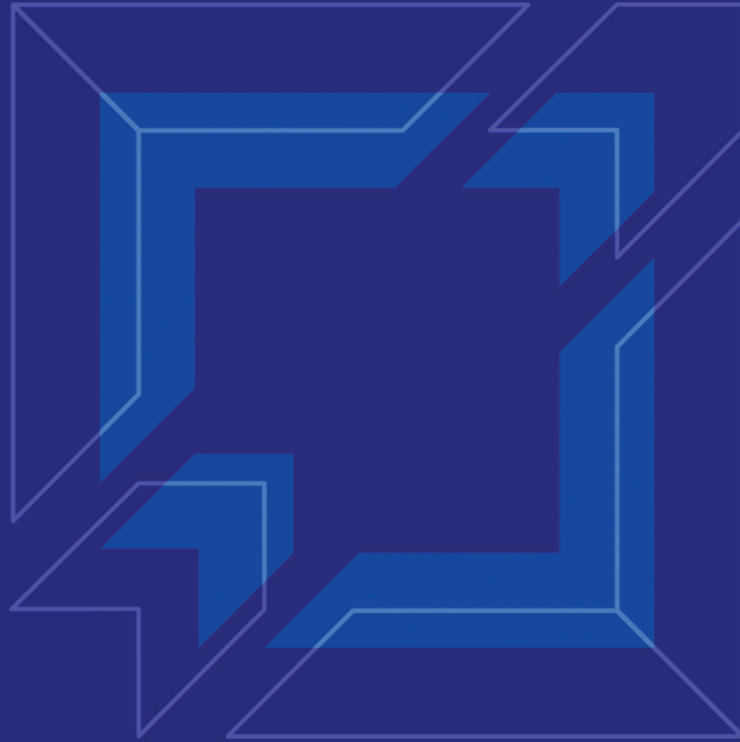
Yes, as per the Executive Regulation of the Customs Law no. 207 of 2020 (Article 198, Paragraph g).

47- Can we submit all the documents in the initial stage to receive the ACID number?

It is sufficient to include the initial data of the shipment, the data of the importer and exporter, and the HSCode, and upload the documents and data through the foreign exporter on the BlockChain CargoX platform, as soon as they are available to the exporter.

48- What are the import procedures from abroad?

Registering on Nafeza and then obtaining the electronic signature from the M.C.D.R Company or Egypt Trust and pre-registration of data before the date of shipment. The exporter shall register on BlockChain CargoX platform to upload the shipment documents electronically.



National Single Window For Egyptian Trade Across Borders

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