**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. The TCF is a "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 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.

*** New Feature ***

ACORD TCF now includes a “Universal Message Validator” (cut and paste), which is a web-page that allows you to paste an XML message text onto the screen, to choose the schema and validation ruleset against which you want to check, and then click “validate” to check if your XML is valid. This applies all the same rules as the full TCF, and is a very quick way of checking whether your messages are valid.

**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)
- 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)
- Placing implementations within London and elsewhere, including:

* Webservices standards supported by full TCF, but not relevant to UMV “cut and paste” feature
Using the TCF

To use the TCF, follow these steps:
1. Contact ACORD (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 Placing initiatives?
The TCF fully supports Placing implementations within London and internationally.

When will the TCF be extended to Life and PCS messages?
ACORD LAH (Life, Annuity and Health) and PCS (Property & Casualty/Surety) messages are already being incorporated into the TCF “UMV” cut and paste facility. Regarding the full TCF functionality, LAH and PCS communities are monitoring progress of the TCF within the RLC (Reinsurance & Large Commercial) community to determine when they may want ACORD to extend to their messages.