

5<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **SOLAS Container Weight Verification**

**VGM (Verified Gross Mass) “SOLAS” Convention and indication of verified gross weight for containers.**



Please take note that, in the intent of preventing possible accidents during navigation, the IMO (International Maritime Organization) has approved a change in the treaty known as SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) that introduces the obligation, by the exporter, of communicating the verified gross weight of containers that are to be loaded onto vessels (VGM – Verified Gross Mass).

This ruling will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and calls for the data that refers to the VGM to be divulged to the maritime company in enough time to allow them to prepare plans for the stowage of containers onboard. Should this information not be forthcoming, the container will not only not be loaded, but also in many cases, will be refused entry at the port terminal.

The VGM is defined by the weight of the goods, its packaging, lashings or any other materials used to secure the goods in addition to the tare weight of the container itself.

The SOLAS ruling states the two methods of obtaining the verified weight.

1° - By weighing the container, loaded and sealed, at a weighing station.

2° - Via a weighing procedure with certified and calibrated equipment, of each individual carton (goods and packaging) that will be loaded into the container, total to which must be added the tare of the container, details that can be found listed on the door of the container itself.

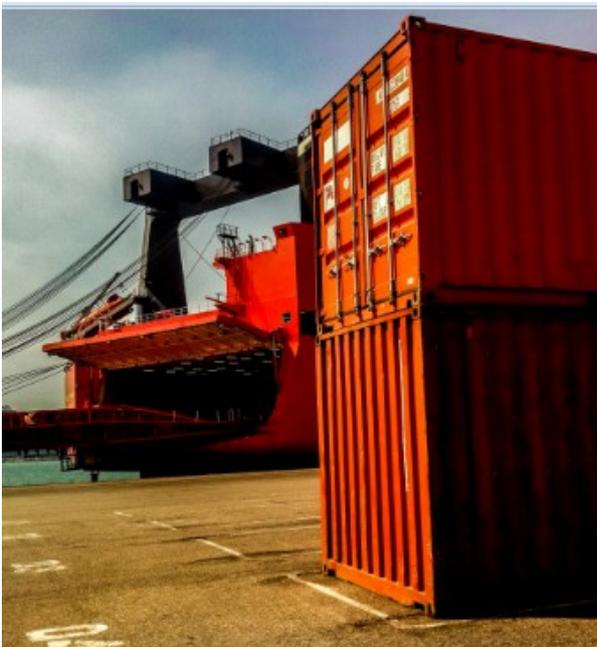
Given the above, the resulting weight must be indicated on the Transport documents; in your case, this would mean that the commercial invoice would indicate the number of the container and its corresponding verified weight (VGM).

A copy of this invoice must be forwarded to us immediately after the container is loaded, so we can in turn send this via data transmission, to the maritime company.

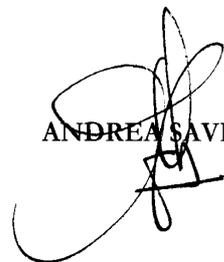
For further information, please refer to:

<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/Containers/Pages/Verification-of-the-gross-mass.aspx>,

Thank you for your attention to the above and we remain at your complete disposal should you need any further information.



Thank you for your attention.

  
ANDREA SAVIA



# SOLAS CONVENTION

## The Verified Gross Mass (VGM) Requirement

From July 1st, 2016 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the International Convention SOLAS – Safety of Life at Sea – for safety and security of merchant ships. With this amendment, the container Verified Gross Mass weight (VGM) becomes a compulsory requirement before the vessel loading.

### BACKGROUND

The new regulation adopted by the International Maritime Organization aims at reducing the dangers to cargo, containers and everybody involved in container transport through the supply chain. In addition, reducing the number of accidents caused by wrong declared container weights.

The purpose of the VGM is to require the shippers of all containers to provide sufficiently in advance an accurate gross weight of the packed containers to the ocean carrier, so that terminal operators can prepare the vessel's stowage plans prior to loading cargo on ships.

All these regulations aims at improving the workforce and maritime safety through the supply chain.

### VERIFIED GROSS MASS "VGM"

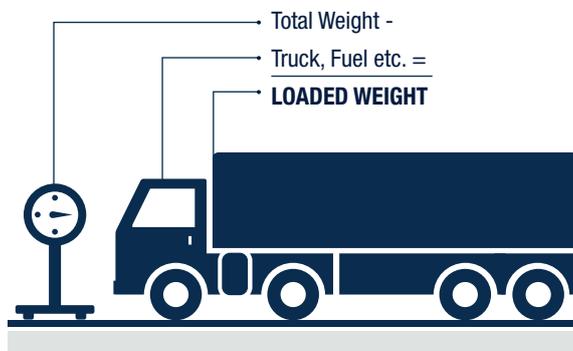
The Verified Gross Mass is the weight of the cargo including dunnage and bracing together with the tare weight of the container carrying this cargo.

SOLAS requires the shipper to provide VGM in a "shipping document", before the vessel loading.

## METHODS TO OBTAIN THE VERIFIED GROSS MASS WEIGHT OF A PACKET CONTAINER

### METHOD 1 - WEIGHING

Weigh the packed and sealed container. It can be performed by the shipper or a third party.



**An estimation of the weight is not permitted.** The method itself needs to be certified and approved by a national regulatory body. Enforcement and "policing" of VGM rules remain with the local government authorities, responsible for maritime affairs.

### METHOD 2 - CALCULATING

The shipper or a third party may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage, and other packing materials securing the cargo to be packed in the container, and add the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses of the container's contents.



### REQUIREMENTS

The weight obtained shall be proved on the packing lists and your commercial invoices as follows:

**Verified Gross Mass weight | Container's Number | Seal Number**

These elements need to be forwarded to Savittransport, which will transfer this data through a newly defined EDI message type, VERMAS (Verified Gross Mass message) to the ocean carrier in advance (eVGM).

**No containerized cargo will be loaded on a vessel unless the shipper has provided the VGM.**

For more information on the new SOLAS regulation, please see the website or contact your local Savittransport representative.

[www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/Containers/Pages/Verification-of-the-gross-mass.aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/Containers/Pages/Verification-of-the-gross-mass.aspx)



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