

Overview

In February 2015 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) amended the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) to require, as a condition for loading a packed container onto a ship for export, that the container have Verified Gross Mass (VGM) and making the shipper responsible for the verification of the packed container's weight. **This requirement will become legally effective on July 1, 2016.** After that date, it would be a violation of SOLAS to load a packed container onto a vessel if the vessel operator and marine terminal operator do not have a verified container weight.

OOCL Logistics has an active operations and IT taskforce already working on the SOLAS Weight Verification rule changes. As we proceed forward, that team will clarify the rule and the implementation of process changes with our customers and local OOCL Logistics office teams as well as coordinating with CFS operations, terminals, carriers and regional authorities around the globe.

SOLAS VGM Requirements

1. Before a packed container can be loaded onto a ship, its VGM must be determined through weighing. It is a violation of SOLAS to load a packed container aboard a vessel to which SOLAS applies without a proper weight verification. There is no exception to this requirement.
2. Under the SOLAS amendments, there are two permissible methods for acquiring the VGM:

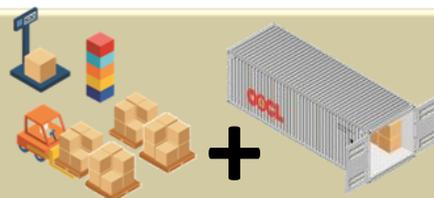
Method 1:

Weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified weighing equipment. This can be arranged by shipper or third party.



Method 2:

Requires weighing all the packages/cargo items and contents (including securing equipment/dunnage) of the container by means of certified method approved by the competent authority and **adding those weights to the container's tare weight shown on the container.**



Documentation and Verification Requirements:

The Declaration of Verified Gross Weight:

1. Must be signed and dated the person signing the declaration must be duly authorized by the shipper or the shipper's authorized representative.
2. The declaration can be part of the shipping instructions, (i.e. the vendor's Shipping Instructions (SI) submitted to OOCL Logistics), or a separate communication, EDI is acceptable.
3. Verified weights can be in kilograms or pounds.

Under either method, the weighing equipment used (scale, weighbridge, lifting equipment) must meet applicable local country regulations for accuracy certification and calibration requirements. Estimating weight is not permitted.

OOCL Logistics VGM Process Management and IT Action

1. OOCL Logistics will work with you to update/revise customer operation procedures to include the weighing process, documentation and vendor/internal training related to the amendment requirements.
2. We are completing our Offline Declaration Form which can be used by shippers to complete and provide to OOCL Logistics at origin in order for us to submit the VGM to the carriers. This will most likely be at the existing SI (Shipping Information) cutoff the carriers use today.
3. In addition we will have the online solution for the vendors using VendorPodium to complete the required data entry including the date and electronic signature. Since we already submit the SI information to the carrier, OOCL Logistics will be able submit the VGM information as well.
4. Our information technology teams are also creating PODIUM® system and IT enhancements regarding collection of VGM and EDI submission/transmission of VGM declarations.
5. We have set up an internal site for each region to submit information specific to their country with regards to Weigh Bridge Services or stations available.
6. OOCL Logistics will keep you up-to-date on the SOLAS Weight Verification Requirement rule, the processes we are putting in place and any significant changes. For more information please contact your Customer Service Representative or the Customer Service Management team indicated below:

For Vendor Loaded Containers (CY-CY Shipments)

- The vendor/shipper will load the container
- The vendor/shipper will measure the VGM either by Method 1 or Method 2
- The vendor/shipper will provide/ send/ transmit the VGM declaration to OOCL Logistics
- OOCL Logistics will send the VGM declaration to carriers

For Consolidation Containers (Cross Dock, CFS/CY Shipments)

- Vendors/shippers move the LCL shipments to the OOCL Logistics' appointed CFS/warehouse
- Vendors provide the VGM to OOCL Logistics
- OOCL Logistics will not accept cargo into CFS without a declared VGM
- All CFS will have ability to weigh but weighing will be an additional service and cost
- OOCL Logistics will weigh cartons received at random to check shipper's VGM declaration accuracy
- OOCL Logistics' CFS/warehouse will load the container
- OOCL Logistics will prepare and submit the VGM declaration to carriers

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at the World Shipping Council site by following this URL: <http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/faqs>