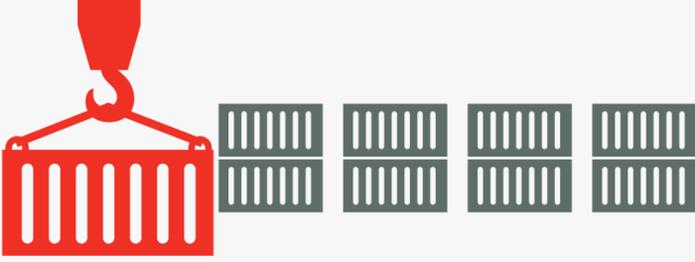


SOLAS: guidelines on the Verified Gross Mass of a container carrying cargo

Guidelines

What's new?



Obligation to provide Verified Gross Mass ("VGM")

Prior to loading the "Shipper" is responsible for the verification of the gross mass of a packed container which is to be exported.



Mandatory

A packed container should not be loaded onto a ship unless the VGM is obtained.

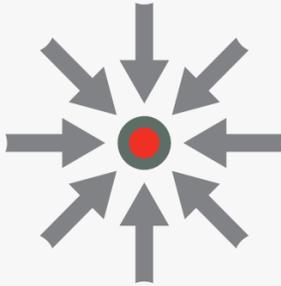
Who could be a "shipper"?



The owner of cargo



The non-vessel-operating common carrier (NVOCC)



The consolidator of cargo

What must the shipper do?



The shipper must obtain and communicate the VGM to the carrier "in advance".



As part of the shipping instructions to the shipping company



As a separate communication

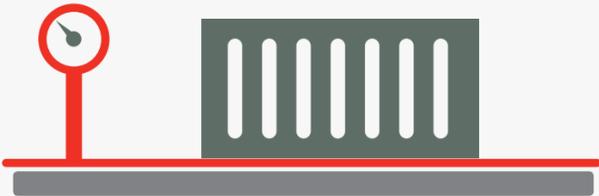


Signed by person authorised by shipper



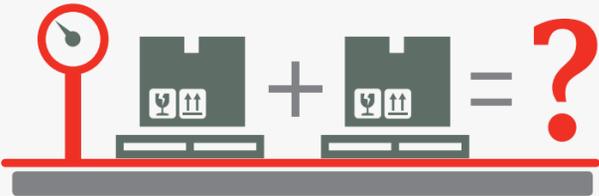
Paper or electronic

How to obtain the VGM?



Method 1

Weigh the packed container (with calibrated and certified equipment).



Method 2

Weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing materials to be packed into the container, and add the tare mass of the container using a certified method.

Enforcement tolerance?



Australia

No enforcement tolerance



Japan

±5% "error margin"



South Africa

A "2% enforcement tolerance"



UK

"±5% or ±500kg, whichever is the greater"



USA

No enforcement tolerance

Date of enforcement

