

What is Verified Gross Mass?

Miss declaration of cargo weight is a major hazard which often results in cargo claims, structural damages to vessels and also poses a significant risk to the lives of staff.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) convention under regulation 2 of chapter VI which mandates the declaration of the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of a packed container before loading on board vessels within a prescribed cut-off date / time to the shipping line and / or port terminal authorities.

Effective 1st July 2016, the regulation stipulates the use of two approved methods to declare the VGM for each container by the shipper or his representative.

SOLAS regulation for weighing containers allows two ways for weighing packed containers in order to obtain the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for each container by the shipper or his representative.

As per the regulation, either of the **two approved methods** must be used to declare the verified gross mass:

Method 1: Upon completion of packing and sealing a container and using calibrated and certified equipment, the shipper may weigh the packed container. Method 1 is appropriate to use for any packed container and any kind of goods.

Method 2: The shipper may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material 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. Method 2 is inappropriate and impractical for certain types of cargo.

Following these regulations shippers are required to declare and certify the gross mass or weight of the product that is being loaded into a container or picked up by a trucker. Shippers may use their own created certificates or SHGL can provide a certificate upon request. Failure to provide this information or incorrect information will result in delays, additional charges and possibly fines.

While we have not determined if there will be an extra charge involved following this new regulations we have seen a variety of charges been implemented by other co-loaders/forwarders and steamship line. Our position is to pass along any fees we are being charged.

If you have any questions in regards to this new regulations please contact is at 877-442 7988

The Global SHGL Team.