

Dear Customer,

As from July 1, 2016, the new SOLAS regulation will become effective; therefore the packed containers' VGM (Verified Gross Mass) will be mandatory for all the units to be loaded onboard vessels.

The new regulation entails a change in existing procedures for all stakeholders involved across the shipping industry. To ensure the safety of the ships, the safety of workers both aboard ships and ashore, the safety of cargo and overall safety at sea, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), as amended, requires in chapter VI, part A, regulation 2 that packed containers' gross mass are verified prior to stowage aboard ship.

The shipper is responsible for the verification of the gross mass of a container carrying cargo (hereinafter "a packed container"). The shipper is also responsible for ensuring that the verified gross mass (VGM) is communicated in the shipping documents sufficiently in advance to be used by the ship's master or his representative and the terminal representative in the preparation of the ship stowage plan.

In the absence of the shipper providing the verified gross mass of the packed container, the container should not be loaded on to the ship unless the master or his representative and the terminal representative have obtained the verified gross mass through other means.

Methods for obtaining the verified gross mass of a packed container

The SOLAS regulations prescribe two methods by which the shipper may obtain the verified gross mass of a packed container:

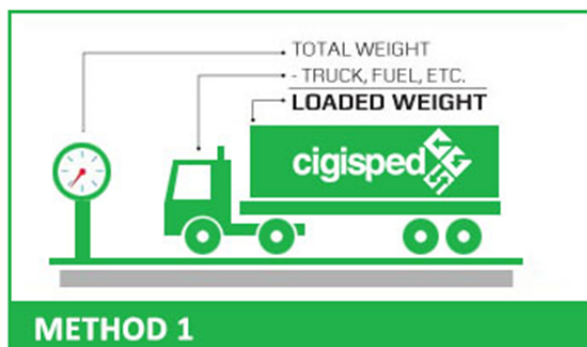
Method No.1: Upon the conclusion of packing and sealing a container, the shipper may weigh, or have arranged that a third party weighs, the packed container.

Method No.2: The shipper (or, by arrangement of the shipper, a third party), 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 using a certified method. Any third party that has performed some or all of the packing of the container should inform the shipper of the mass of the cargo items and packing and securing material that the party has packed into the container in order to facilitate the shipper's verification of the gross mass of the packed container under. The shipper should ensure that the verified gross mass of the container is provided sufficiently in advance of vessel loading. (Estimating the weight of a container's contents is not permitted.)

In respect of both method 1 and 2, the weighing equipment used must meet the applicable accuracy standards and requirements of the State in which the equipment is being used.

The weight so obtained shall be submitted to the carrier.

Please be advised that when providing your VGM it will be asked that you break down the weight to cargo weight and container Tare weight separately.



For more details and FAQ, please refer to below information:

<http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/faqs/SOLAS_VGM_Industry_FAQs_Dec_2015_US_letter_WEB.pdf