

June 2016

To all overseas partners

Here below new guidelines concerning the new procedures for all containers in export from Italy

The SOLAS Container – Verified Gross Mass requirement

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) amended the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) to require, as a condition for loading on vessels, to have for each container a verified weight.

The Shipper is responsible for the verification of the packed container's correct 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.

- The Shipper (listed as shipper in the bill of lading or sea waybill) is responsible for providing the VGM (Verified Gross Mass) to the carrier in reasonable time prior to the vessel loading
- The VGM consists of cargo weight including packaging and dunnage (securing) materials and tare weight of container.
- The Carrier is responsible for relaying the VGM to its terminal.

- For Groupage/Consolidation containers the consolidator is the 'shipper' in the eyes of the carrier and, therefore, responsible for providing the VGM to the carrier, although the manufacturer/shipper of forwarding agent has a duty of care to provide accurate cargo weights to the consolidator.

- There are two methods to calculate the VGM:
 - 1) Weigh the packed/loaded container (Method one)
 - 2) Weigh all packages, packaging and dunnage material and add the tare weight of the container (Method two)

- o In order to comply with method one the shipper has to arrange for the container/trailer/unit to be weighed empty and then full at an approved weighbridge facility.
- o In order to comply with method two shippers/manufacturers will need suitable weighting equipment which has been calibrated to do so, and a titled worker to declare the same on document.

- Carriers WILL NOT LOAD containers without having a VGM

VGM fee will be debited at cost, according to different carriers' fares.