

DHL International Supply Chain



23 May, 2016

Dear Valued Customer,

Re: SOLAS Convention - Container Weight Verification Requirement, effective July 1st, 2016

As announced earlier, International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted a new regulation under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention which requires packed containers' verified gross mass (VGM) to be declared by shippers prior to stowage aboard ship, it takes effect in Hong Kong from July 1, 2016. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key points for you to get prepared for this regulation. (Chapter VI Regulation 2)

- The "shipper" according to the IMO's guidance on VGM, is "a legal entity or person named on the bill of lading or sea waybill or equivalent multimodal transport document as shipper, and/or who (or in whose name or on whose behalf) a contract of carriage has been concluded with a shipping company." This responsibility doesn't go away if a shipper uses a forwarder to pack and weigh a container, forward it to the port and even make the booking with the carrier.
- Shippers are responsible to provide a VGM of packed container to carrier before a prescribed cut-off date/time (will be provided by carrier upon booking confirmation) to the shipping line and/or port terminal authorities.
- The SOLAS regulation prescribes two methods by which the shipper may obtain the VGM of a packed container.

Method 1: weighing the packed and sealed container using calibrated and certified equipment.

Method 2: weighing all the package and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container, and add the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single mass using a method certified by Marine Department. In other words, the shipper opting for method 2 shall submit the application to of registration to Marine Department before employing this method for gross mass verification.

The Hong Kong Marine Department has provided information at their website regarding the VGM requirements. You are highly recommended to take a glance at their website and register as soon as

possible if you would like to adopt Method 2 for the VGM submission. Please visit Marine Department at http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/miss_vgm.html.

DHL ISC complies with the VGM requirements enforced by IMO. We gather the VGM declared by shippers, compile and submit to carriers/terminal. Shippers can provide us the VGM information of their packed container along with the Shipping Instructions (SI) or through a separate submission.

For Consolidated shipments, shippers are required to submit a VGM declaration form as attached below to HK ISC team in verifying the gross mass of your cargoes/packages.



SOLAS Submission
Template.docx



SOLAS Submission
Template Sample.pdf

For more information about SOLAS VGM, please visit us at http://www.dhl.com/en/logistics/freight_transportation/ocean_freight/solas_convention.html or <http://www.dhl.com/content/dam/downloads/g0/logistics/solas/dhl-solas-customer-faq-apr16.pdf> for some FAQs that we received from our customers.

Please contact your DHL International Supply Chain Customer Service representative for further information.

We thank you for your business and continued support.

Kind regards,
DHL International Supply Chain