

# SOLAS CONVENTION

## The Verified Gross Mass (VGM) Requirement

From July 1st, 2016 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the International Convention SOLAS – Safety of Life at Sea – for safety and security of merchant ships. With this amendment, the container Verified Gross Mass weight (VGM) becomes a compulsory requirement before the vessel loading.

### BACKGROUND

The new regulation adopted by the International Maritime Organization aims at reducing the dangers to cargo, containers and everybody involved in container transport through the supply chain. In addition, reducing the number of accidents caused by wrong declared container weights.

The purpose of the VGM is to require the shippers of all containers to provide sufficiently in advance an accurate gross weight of the packed containers to the ocean carrier, so that terminal operators can prepare the vessel's stowage plans prior to loading cargo on ships.

All these regulations aims at improving the workforce and maritime safety through the supply chain.

### VERIFIED GROSS MASS "VGM"

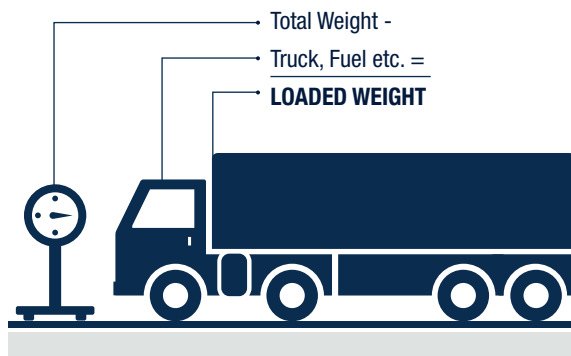
The Verified Gross Mass is the weight of the cargo including dunnage and bracing together with the tare weight of the container carrying this cargo.

SOLAS requires the shipper to provide VGM in a "shipping document", before the vessel loading.

## METHODS TO OBTAIN THE VERIFIED GROSS MASS WEIGHT OF A PACKET CONTAINER

### METHOD 1 - WEIGHING

Weigh the packed and sealed container. It can be performed by the shipper or a third party.



### METHOD 2 - CALCULATING

The shipper or a third party may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage, and other packing materials securing the cargo 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.



**An estimation of the weight is not permitted.** The method itself needs to be certified and approved by a national regulatory body. Enforcement and "policing" of VGM rules remain with the local government authorities, responsible for maritime affairs.

### REQUIREMENTS

The weight obtained shall be proved on the packing lists and your commercial invoices as follows:

**Verified Gross Mass weight | Container's Number | Seal Number**

These elements need to be forwarded to Savino Del Bene, which will transfer this data through a newly defined EDI message type, VERMAS (Verified Gross Mass message) to the ocean carrier in advance (eVGM).

**No containerized cargo will be loaded on a vessel unless the shipper has provided the VGM.**

For more information on the new SOLAS regulation, please see the website or contact your local Savino Del Bene representative.

[www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/Containers/Pages/Verification-of-the-gross-mass.aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/Containers/Pages/Verification-of-the-gross-mass.aspx)



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