

Container Weight Verification Regulations effective July 2016

Dear business partners,

Dear customers,

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), an United Nations agency responsible for safety at sea, has adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention regarding a mandatory container gross weight verification. Effective 1st July 2016, all packed containers are required to have a Verified Gross Mass declared by shippers.

A packed container will not be allowed to be loaded aboard a vessel unless the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) has been provided by shipper to the shipping line. Verified Gross Mass means the total gross mass of a packed containers, including container tare weight, weight of cargo, packing-, dunnage and other securing material.

SOLAS prescribes two methods by which the shipper may obtain the VGM of a packed container: The shipper weighs the packed and sealed container using calibrated and certified equipment. The shipper adds container tare weight, cargo, packing-, dunnage and all other material stuffed into the container. This method is subject to approval by a national regulatory body of the country where container has been packed.

Some details about the enforcement and regulations for approval of method 2 are yet to be determined by IMO and national legislation.

Best regards,

Your Röhlig Team

