



SOLAS VGM Guide

Verified Gross Mass

VGM (Verified Gross Mass)

new IMO legislation in effect as of July 1, 2016

July 1st, 2016, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) launched a new legislation regarding documentation of container weight based upon the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

From this date all containers, including all content, must be weighed and verified by certified equipment according to each country's standards and requirements.

**Estimated gross weight will no longer be accepted.
This is an international regulation and applies to all countries.**

The purpose of this regulation is to ensure safety at sea, to both personnel and equipment. Insurance agencies wanted this regulation based on prior experience.

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Who is responsible?

- the shipper is legally responsible for submitting the VGM (Verified Gross Mass)
- the shipper is named on the ocean bill of lading, the sea way bill or the equivalent multimodal transport document (CMR).
- The client who has concluded a contract of carriage with Viasea is also the party responsible for providing the maritime carrier ('master') with the verified gross mass (VGM) of a packed container. (If applicable inform your vendors/suppliers or any other parties being the shipper of a load of the new regulation)

How to determine the VGM?

- either the shipper named on the ocean bill of lading, the sea way bill or the equivalent multimodal transport document (CMR). The one who has concluded a contract of carriage with Viasea is also the party responsible for providing the maritime carrier ('master') with the verified gross mass (VGM) of a packed container. (If applicable inform your vendors/suppliers or any other parties being the shipper of a load of the new regulation)

How to determine the VGM?

Weigh

- complete container with the goods and packaging at the shippers premises or en route to the terminal

Calculate

- total weight of the goods and the packaging (pallet, wrapping, securing material, stowage material)

- add the weight of the container (tare mentioned on the outside of the container)

How to communicate VGM to Viasea:

- add VGM to the shipping documents when the goods are weighed or calculated
- send VGM to Viasea by email: booking@viasea.com. Remember to include booking- and container number

Can Viasea assist in weighing?

- yes, depending on the port of loading, Viasea can most likely assist. Please note that extra costs (for weighing, mileage, multi-stop) will occur and be charged accordingly.

Dates and deadlines:

- when should I submit the VGM for my shipment?
- preferably at booking, or directly after the loading of the goods in the container
- at the latest: at delivery of container at port/terminal

Consequences of not weighing or submitting VGM:

- delays – Viasea will not accept loading the container before the VGM is submitted
- added costs due to missing VGM documentation:
 - administration fees
 - demurrage costs
 - container detention



Contact us for help via email or phone:

Espen Hansen
 Operation Manager
 +47 916 16 004
espen.hansen@viasea.com