



# SOLAS VGM Guide

## Verified Gross Mass



### VGM (Verified Gross Mass)

new IMO legislation in effect as of **July 1, 2016**

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Starting on **July 1, 2016**, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will launch 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.

In the past incorrect container weight has shown to be a leading cause to accidents and unfortunate events.

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## Who is responsible?

- the shipper is legally responsible for submitting the VGM (Verified Gross Mass)

## Who is the shipper?

- 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 ColliCare 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 can the shipper determine the VGM?

### Weigh

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

### Calculate

- the total weight of the goods and the packaging (*pallet, wrapping, securing material, stowage material*), after which you add the weight of the container (*tare mentioned on the outside of the container*)

## How to communicate:

- add VGM to the shipping documents when the goods are weighed or calculated
- shipper sends VGM digitally to ColliCare when they are weighed or calculated

## Can ColliCare do this for me?

- yes, depending on the port of loading, ColliCare can most likely assist. At this moment there are only a limited number of terminals able to weigh containers. **Please note that extra costs (for weighing, mileage, multi-stop) will occur and will be charged accordingly**

## Dates and deadlines:

- from July 1, 2016 the amended SOLAS Guidelines will enter into force
- when should I submit the VGM for my shipment?
  - preferably at booking, or directly after the loading of the goods in the container

## Consequences of not weighing or submitting VGM:

- delays – the vessel/line will not accept loading the container before the VGM is submitted
- added costs due to delay:
  - administration fees
  - demurrage costs
  - container detention



In effect as of **July 1, 2016**

