

SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea)

The following changes made in SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) regulation, Effective July 1st July 2016 The new regulations requires the provision of the verified gross mass (VGM) of all containers. Below please note the new regulation:

SOLAS CHAPTER VI

(carriage of cargoes and oil fuels)

Part A

General Provisions

Regulation 2 – Cargo Information

The following new paragraphs 4 to 6 are added after existing paragraph 3:

- 4 In the case of cargo carried in a container* except for containers carrier on chassis or trailer when such containers are driven on or off a ro – ro ship engaged in short international voyages as defined in regulation III/3, the gross mass according to paragraph 2.1 of this regulation shall be verified by shipper, either by:
 - 1 weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment ; or
 - 2 weighing all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container and adding the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses, using a certified method approved by the competent authority of the sate in which the packing of the container was completed.

- 5 the shipper of a container shall ensure the verified gross mass** is stated in the shipping documents. The shipping documents shall be:
 - 1 signed by a person duly authorized by the shipper:
 - 2 Submitted to the master or his representative sufficiently in advance, as required by the master or his representative, to be use in the preparation of the ship stowage plan***.

- 6 If the shipping documents with regard to a packed container, does not provide verified gross mass and the master or his representative and the terminal representative have not obtained the verified gross mass of the packed container, it shall not be loaded on to the ship.