



Amendment to the SOLAS Convention:

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) convention under regulation 2 of chapter VI which mandates the declaration of the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of a packed container before loading on board vessels within a prescribed cut-off date / time to the shipping line and / or port terminal authorities.

Effective 1st July 2016, the regulation stipulates the use of two approved methods to declare the VGM for each container by the shipper or his representative.

SOLAS regulation for weighing containers allows two ways for weighing packed containers in order to obtain the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for each container by the shipper or his representative.

As per the regulation, either of the two approved methods must be used to declare the verified gross mass:

Method 1	Method 2
<p data-bbox="225 1070 778 1115">Real weight of the container including tare when cargo is packed</p> 	<p data-bbox="815 1070 1331 1115">Addition of the whole cargo including packing and the tare weight of the container</p> 

- Method 1: Weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified weighing equipment (e.g. weigh bridges, load cell sensing technologies etc.)
 - Method 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 country where the container is packed.
 - In respect of both method 1 and 2, the weighing equipment used must meet the applicable accuracy standards and requirements of the State in which the equipment is being used.
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