



LEBANESE SHIPPING AGENTS SYNDICATE

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BEIRUT - 7/JUNE/2016
CIRCULAR UPDATE

SOLAS VGM GUIDELINES & SUGGESTED PROCEDURES IN BEIRUT (LEBANON)

Effective 1st July 2016, it is a violation of SOLAS to load packed container on board a ship (to which SOLAS applies) without a verified gross verification (VGM).

There is no exception to this requirement.

RELEVANT SOLAS RULE

According to SOLAS CH4/REG2/Papa6 "A container packed with packages and cargo items should not be loaded onto a ship to which the SOLAS regulations apply unless the master or his representative and the terminal representative have obtained, in advance of the vessel loading, the verified actual gross mass of the container."

Two permissible methods for container weighing

- Method (1) weighing the container after it has been packed with cargo (usually takes place at the port/terminal)
- Method (2) weighing all the cargo and contents of the container and adding those weights to the container's tare weight.

OPERATING GUIDELINES UNDER METHOD (2)

- A shipper is the party who appears as shipper on the bill of lading.
- Estimating weight is not permitted; The shipper (or by arrangement of a 3rd party) has the responsibility to weigh the packed container or to weigh its contents.
- The weighing equipment used must meet national certification and calibration requirements.
- The party packing the container cannot use the weight somebody else has provided EXCEPT WHEN sealed cargo packages are clearly and permanently marked on their surfaces. This saves another weighing process of the packed container.
- A carrier may rely on a shipper's signed weight verification to be accurate.
- According to SOLAS, a carrier does not need to be a "verifier" of the shipper's weight verification as declared by shipper.
- Shipper's weight verification certificate SHOULD be compliant with SOLAS requirement and MUST be "signed" by shipper or an authorized named person representing the shipper who confirms having verified the accuracy of the weight calculations on behalf of the shipper.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SIGNED SHIPPER'S WEIGHT VERIFICATION IS NOT AVAILABLE?

When shipper DOES NOT provide a signed VERIFIED GROSS MASS (VGM) of the shipment, container must not be accepted for loading on the ship until weighing is arranged. The consequent delays, charges and risks are all for shipper's account and responsibility.

ELECTRONIC VGM DATA TRANSFER TO BCTC TOS and GEPB CAMA

The weighbridges at Beirut Port become electronically connected to BCTC TOS and the Shipping Agents designated platform, CAMA.

This upgrade enables Shipping Agents to retrieve VGM operations related to export containers when finalizing loading list to the terminal.

Beirut Port (GEPB) is making the new version available for testing during June 2016 before a full implementation on July 1st 2016.

STEPS OF ARRANGING VGM WEGHING IN BEIRUT PORT.

Based on practical coordination with all the concerned port authorities for sake of enhancing the traffic flow and reduce traffic inside the port, shippers or their representatives could arrange packed container VGM through weighbridges available in Beirut port and may adopt one of the of the following methods:

(AAA) TRUCK WEIGHING WITHOUT EMPTY CONTAINER(s)

1. Arrange truck weighing before loading empty container(s)
2. Arrange truck weighing after loading laden container(s)
3. The difference is considered VGM of container(s)
4. Shipping line (agent) identifies payload respected containers and reports load list of VGM compliant containers to the port

(BBB) TRUCK WEIGHING WITH EMPTY CONTAINER(s)

1. Arrange truck weighing with empty container(s)
2. Arrange truck weighing after loading laden container(s)
3. The difference could be considered cargo VGM
4. Shipping line (agent) identifies payload respected containers and reports load list of VGM compliant containers to the port

(CCC) TRUCK WEIGHING WITH LADEN CONTAINER(s)

1. Arrange truck weighing after loading laden container(s)
2. Arrange truck weighing after discharging container(s)
3. The difference is considered cargo VGM
4. Shipping line (agent) identifies payload respected containers and reports load list of VGM compliant containers to the port

Shippers are cordially invited to coordinate with their shipping lines for operational guidance and may contact the syndicate for relevant information about SOLAS VGM rules and implementation.

Truly Yours,

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