

SOLAS Weight Controls for Ocean Freight

WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR YOU AND YOUR COMPANY . . .

. . .when the rules for weighing goods and containers tighten on July 1, 2016?

✓ **WHAT.**

SOLAS, the international convention for Safety of Life at Sea, will require shippers to submit the VGM (Verified Gross Mass) of containers to ocean carriers. VGM is the total weight of all goods, dunnage, packaging, and the tare weight of the container itself.

✓ **WHY.**

Shipments are often submitted to ocean carriers with inaccurate weights. In the worst cases, serious accidents occur because vessels load above their maximum capacity.

✓ **HOW.**

SOLAS **now requires accurate weighing** of containers before they are loaded onto departing vessels. There will be 2 methods to determine the VGM:

- Total weight of loaded truck with container, minus the weight of the truck, chassis, and fuel.
- Individual weighing of all goods, dunnage, and packing materials, which is then added to the tare weight of the container.

FOR YOU AS A SHIPPER THIS MEANS . . .

. . . you must obtain the correct gross weight of your goods and/or container **before it leaves your loading terminal** so that your forwarder can report the VGM to the ocean carrier. If the correct VGM is not submitted, your container will not be loaded.

The rules are currently being implemented in all SOLAS member countries, but it is not yet known how each country will interpret these requirements. LEMAN is monitoring each country's decision regarding various weight tolerances and requirements to ensure a calibrated and verified weight. You should consider how you can prepare your company for the new requirements before July 1, 2016.

Please be aware that weighing fees have been predicted as well as the possibility of sanctions and /or fines for incorrect weight submissions. As soon as we have more information regarding the new rules, including information on fees, sanctions, weight tolerances, and weight verification, you will, of course, be informed.

Read more about the new rules on the [World Shipping Council's](#) website.

LEMAN