



ENSIGN FREIGHT LTD.

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旗鋒貨運有限公司

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Dear Valued Partners,

Update: IMO Requirement for Container Weight Verification

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) to require, as a condition for loading a packed container onto a ship for export, that the container has a verified weight. This requirement will become legally effective on **July 1, 2016**.

SOLAS requires that the container weight verification information be submitted sufficiently in advance of vessel loading to be used in the preparation of the ship stowage plan. It would be shipper's responsibility to ensure they provide the accurate weight and NOT a guesstimate weight of the container. In absence of Verified Gross Weight (VGW) from shipper (E-channel or a physical certificate), the container will not be loaded on the vessel.

There are two methods shippers may use to determine the container weight:

Method 1, which requires weighing the container after it has been packed, or

Method 2, which requires weighing all the cargo and contents of the container and adding those weights to the container's tare weight as indicated on the door end of the container.

What does it mean to provide a Verified Gross Weight (VGW)?

The VGW is the certified Gross Cargo weight (including weight of all packing material) plus Container Tare weight.

How might this all affect container cut-offs at the export port?

The entire supply chain might be affected including container cut-offs. These cut-off times may vary by carriers. Carriers will provide shippers with cut-off times within which the carrier must receive the required container weight verification from the shipper for ship stowage planning (prior to shipment).

For further information, please refer to [the SOLAS official guidelines](#) and [the Maritime Safety Committee Implementation Guidelines](#). Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Customer Service for details.

We will keep you posted for any updates. Thank you for your attention and kindly distribute the message to the parties concerned.

Yours faithfully,
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