



ENSIGN FREIGHT LTD.

ENSIGN AIRFREIGHT LTD.

ENSIGN FREIGHT (CHINA) LTD.

旗鋒貨運有限公司

旗鋒空運有限公司

旗鋒貨運（中國）有限公司

9 May 2016

Dear Valued Partners,

Update: SOLAS Requirement for Container Weight Verification

As [announced earlier](#), with effect from **1 July 2016**, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will start enforcing the **Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS)** that requires shippers to provide a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for every packed container as a condition for vessel loading.

In order to comply with the new regulation, Ensign has been working on implementation procedures to assist our customers to handle verified gross mass (VGM) data submission timely and accurately. The implementation procedures (E-channel or a physical certificate) will be announced.

Below please find the latest VGM implementation guidelines from Hong Kong Marine Department:

- Two methods 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.](#)
- Tolerance:
less or equal to 10 tons per container: +/- 0.5 tons
more than 10 tons per container : +/- 5%
- All loading ports are counted on Shipper on Master Bill of Lading (MBL).
- Shipper(s) on MBL is necessary to register with Hong Kong Marine Department, to acquire qualification to declare VGM.
- Hong Kong Marine Department will randomly check containers in terminal. For transshipment container(s), VGM measured in China is acceptable.

VGM implementation in China is in accordance with local authority, the implementation guidelines can refer to Ministry of Transport of China ([Chinese](#) / [English](#) Version).

Ensign will continue to keep you updated of the implementation policy from carriers, terminals and local authorities in all related loading ports. More information please refers to [the Maritime Safety Committee Implementation Guidelines](#).

Should you have any inquiries, please contact our Customer Service. Thank you for your attention and kindly distribute the message to the parties concerned.

Yours faithfully,
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