



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

10 June 2016

Dear Valued Partners,

Update: Implementation of SOLAS Requirement for Container Weight Verification

As per the [2nd announcement on 09/May/2016](#), 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) per container.

The VGM is the certified Gross Mass of container (including weight of all cargoes, packing material, dunnage & container tare weight). There are two methods for the Shipper to calculate the VGM;

Method 1, weigh the packed container by using approved weighing scale

Method 2, weigh all packages and cargo items individually, incl. mass of dunnage, packing and securing material and add to tare weight of the container

In order to comply with the regulation, shippers are required to complete and submit VGM on and before VGM cut-off date/time. Hence, **for shipment(s) loading date on or after 1 July 2016 from the origin port of loading**, our customer(s) are requested to submit 'Ensign VGM Declaration form' (as appendix).

Mandatory filing data information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booking / Bill of Lading / Container Number - VGM Weight & Unit of Measurement (KG or LBS) - Shipper or Responsible Party (Name, Address, Contact details) - Name of Authorized Person (Signatory) - Method of weighing (method 1 or 2) – optional - Weighing Party (Name, Address, Contact details) – optional 	
VGM cut off time	<p>VGM should be submitted towards Ensign as per following deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FCL: latest at the CY cut-off time. - LCL: latest when cargo will be delivered to warehouse except weighing cargo is arranged by Ensign. <p><i>**Subject to change according to carrier/Ensign's schedule</i></p> <p><i>**VGM Declaration for FCL Transshipment is subject to the VGM Declaration at loading port.</i></p>	
VGM Tolerance	<p>As per Hong Kong Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less or equal to 10 tons per container: +/- 0.5 tons - more than 10 tons per container : +/- 5% 	<p>As per China Regulations:</p> <p>+/- 5% or +/- 1.0 tons (whichever is smaller)</p>
Penal provisions	<p>NO VGM = NO LOAD.</p> <p>FCL may not accept to gate in terminal if no VGM is provided. <i>**All associated costs with shut out / re-nomination / weighing / return of cargo, etc will be at Shipper's account.</i></p>	

Ensign will keep you updated for any information on VGM is available to share. 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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