



香港工業總會

Federation of Hong Kong Industries

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**Industry News**

29 April 2016

**MEMORANDUM TO ALL MEMBERS****New Requirement on the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo**

The International Maritime Organisation adopted the amendment to SOLAS Chapter VI, Regulation 2 regarding the verified gross mass of a container carrying cargo (packed container) at the 94th MSC session in November 2014. The amendment will come into force globally on 1 July 2016. This amendment requires mandatory verification of the gross mass of a container prior to loading on the vessels to which SOLAS Chapter VI applies. Although some exemptions are included (for roll-on/roll-off vessels amongst others), the vast majority of containers loaded for export will fall under this new regulation.

The Marine Department will conduct a trial run on workflow and documentation on 30 May 2016. Those parties that are interested in participating in the trial run may contact Mr Mak Fat-on of the Marine Department at telephone: 2852 4472 or email: fomak@mardep.gov.hk.

To provide guidance to relevant stakeholders, the Marine Department (MD) has issued the "Guidelines on the Verification of Gross Mass of a Container with Cargo Packed in Hong Kong". Main points are as follows:

1. Shipper may opt for either one method below for mass verification of packed container:  
Method 1: weighing the packed container by using the approved weighing scale;  
Method 2: weighing all packages and cargo items, including pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container and adding the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single mass using a certified method approved by the MD. Shipper in Hong Kong shall submit application of shipper's registration to MD before adopting Method 2, regardless of where packing of the container is completed.
2. The verified gross mass obtained shall be declared in the shipping document. The declaration may be submitted to the carrier as a part of the loading instruction or an independent proof document. The declaration shall be signed by the shipper's authorized person. The shipper shall submit the shipping document with verified gross mass used in the ship stowage plan sufficiently in advance to the carrier and the terminal via carrier by means of Electronic Data Interchange or Electronic Data Processing transmission or paper copy for the purpose of formulation of stowage plan.
3. Re-verification is not required for container in transshipment. If the shipper cannot provide the verified gross mass information upon a container's arrival at the terminal, that container shall not be loaded onboard until verification of container mass is completed.
4. The stakeholders, including but not limited to shippers, weighing scale operators, carriers and terminals, shall retain all the documents and records related to verification of gross mass of a packed container for a period not less than one year.

For details of the requirements, please refer to the following website: [http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/ocean/miss\\_vgm.html](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/miss_vgm.html). For enquiries, please contact the Marine Industrial Safety Section at telephone number 2852 4477 or email [miss@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:miss@mardep.gov.hk).

Members may also forward their comments on the above arrangement to Mr Jeffreys Tsang (Tel: 2732 3197 or email: [Jeffreys.tsang@fhki.org.hk](mailto:Jeffreys.tsang@fhki.org.hk))

Policy, Research &amp; Communications Division