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## SOLAS – verified gross mass for containers from July 1.

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GLOBAL, ALL INDUSTRIES

JUNE 16, 2016



Starting July 1, the mass of a ship container must be known prior to loading.

The shipping company must have received the so-called VGM (Verified Gross Mass) before a container is loaded onto a cargo ship, as the VGM is needed to create the loading plans. The party listed in the Bill of Lading as the "Shipper" is responsible for ensuring this information is correct.

Weighing must take place on a calibrated weighing machine (physical weighing) or be completed based on calculations (however, the user must fulfill certain requirements in such a case).

There is no standardized document or procedure for recording the weighing information. However, it must be ensured that the container and weight are clearly related to one another and that the date of weighing is shown.

According to the associations SPEDLOGSWISS, scienceindustries and Swiss Shippers' Council, the following aspects are important:

- deadline by when the shipping company needs to have received the VGM
- in which form the VGM is wanted/required
- the VGM must be recorded on a separate manifest and the weight details required in other documents are not replaced or influenced (e.g. **customs** manifest).

Information on the SOLAS regulation "Container Weighing" from July 1, 2016: [current version prior to introduction, published by SPEDLOGSWISS; scienceindustries and Swiss Shippers' Council in cooperation with the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office](#)

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