



**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping  
and Outer Islands  
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**PROCEDURES FOR VERIFICATION OF GROSS MASS OF PACKED  
CONTAINERS AS REQUIRED UNDER SOLAS VI/2**

1. In order to verify the gross mass of a packed container in Mauritius the shipper shall either:

**a. Method 1 - Weighing Method**

i. Weigh the loaded container; or

**b. Method 2 - Calculation Method**

ii. Weigh all the items loaded into the container (including but not limited to dunnage, pallets, crates, drums, cases, boxes, barrels, securing material, etc.) and add the tare mass of the container to the sum of those single masses.

**2. Weighing equipment**

The verified gross mass of individual packages or packed containers will be verified using weighing instrument which is duly assized or calibrated, as applicable in accordance with current national legislation.

**3. Method 1- Weighing Method**

The gross mass of packed containers will be verified using a weighing instrument which is duly assized or calibrated in accordance with the Legal Metrology Act.

**4. Method 2 - Calculation Method**

**A.** Where a Shipper operates in accordance with a quality management system standards namely, ISO 9001, ISO 28000 or such updated standards that are applicable from time to time, which include documented procedures to satisfy the weighing requirement, it will be deemed to have demonstrated its competence to use "Method 2 - Calculation method".

## **B. Calculating verified gross mass**

**a.** Individual, original manufacturer sealed packages having their gross mass determined using calibrated or assized weighing instruments, clearly and permanently marked on their surfaces do not need to be weighed again when loaded into the container.

**b.** The tare mass of a container certified under the CSC 1972 shall be taken as stated on its Safety Approval Plate.

**c.** If a container is packed by multiple parties or contains cargo from multiple parties, the shipper of the container is responsible for obtaining from those parties the required/relevant documents to verify the final gross mass of the packed container.

**d.** Any third party that has performed some or all of the packing of the container shall determine the mass of all the items that the party has loaded into the container (cargo, dunnage, pallets, crates, drums, cases, boxes, barrels, securing material, etc.) using identifiable calibrated or assized weighing equipment. The party shall properly document the process of determining that mass and provide the documents to the shipper in order to facilitate the final verification by the shipper of the gross mass of the packed container.

**e.** In order to fulfill the responsibility for providing the accurate verified gross mass of a container, the shipper shall obtain the documents from the third party confirming that on a certain date the identifiable items (cargo, dunnage, pallets, crates, drums, cases, boxes, barrels, securing material, etc.) loaded by this third party into the container was weighed using the identifiable assized or calibrated weighing instruments.

**f.** Re-weighing shall only be required if there are sufficient grounds to believe that the actual gross mass of a container does not correspond to the verified gross mass declared on the shipping document. If the discrepancy in gross mass is confirmed, then the shipper's responsibility for providing the accurate verified gross mass of a container shall, among other things, result in the shipper taking necessary corrective actions to avoid mis-declaration of verified gross mass in the future.

## **5. Documentation**

**a.** Upon completion of packing and sealing of a container, the shipper shall ensure that the verified gross mass of the container is stated in the shipping document. The shipping document shall be signed by a person duly authorised by the shipper and submitted to the ship master or his representative and to the terminal representative sufficiently in advance of loading onto a vessel so that it could be used in the preparation of the ship's stowage plan.

**b.** The signature of the person duly authorised by the shipper may be an electronic signature or may be replaced by the name in capitals of the authorised person.

- c. The shipping document can be part of the shipping instructions to the shipping company or a separate communication.
- d. The shipping document could be provided by electronic means such as Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).
- e. The shipping document should clearly highlight that the gross mass provided is the "Verified Gross Mass" as defined in SOLAS VI/2.4.

## **6. Transshipment**

In case of transshipment of containers, the verified gross mass of a packed container shall be provided to the next party taking custody of the container.

## **7. Verification of gross mass of a packed container carried on a goods vehicle or on a trailer**

- a. If, for the purpose of verification of the gross mass of a packed container carried on a goods vehicle/trailer, a container is weighed together with a goods vehicle/trailer, then the unladen weight of the goods vehicle/trailer must be subtracted from the weighing result to obtain the value of the verified gross mass of the container. The gross mass of the packed container and the goods vehicle/trailer shall be obtained using a weighing instrument which is duly assized or calibrated in accordance with the Legal Metrology Act.
- b. It is recommended to disconnect the truck from the trailer, otherwise the tare mass of the truck including fuel in its tank must also be subtracted.
- c. If two packed containers are carried on a road vehicle then their gross masses shall be verified by weighing each container separately with or without the trailers on which they are carried.
- d. The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicle) Regulations 2010 at *Section 6 of Part II of Fourth Schedule* provides for the unladen weight and payload of a goods vehicle shall be displayed in a conspicuous place on the nearside and rear-side of the vehicle.
- e. The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicle) Regulations 2010 at *section 120 Part III use of motor vehicles, trailers and pedal cycles, sub-part D – Trailers and Towing vehicle* provides that no person shall operate a goods vehicle, a trailer or a semi-trailer, the gross weight of which exceeds 3,500 kilograms, unless there is printed on a metal plate affixed in a conspicuous position on the left side of the vehicle in letters and figures of not less than 40 millimetres in height and which shall be clearly legible at all times:
  - i. the weight unladen of such vehicle in kilograms (WU);
  - ii. the permissible maximum load in kilograms (L);

iii. the permissible maximum gross weight of the vehicle in kilograms (GW); and

iv. where the vehicle is used to draw any other vehicle, the permissible maximum gross combination weight of such combined vehicle in kilograms (GCW).

F. The load, tare and gross weight of every goods vehicle and trailer appear the carrier's license and on the registration book (Horse power certificate)

## **8. Container without Verified Gross Mass**

a. A packed container shall not be loaded onto the ship until the master or his representative and the terminal representative have received the shipping document containing the verified gross mass of the container.

b. The master retains ultimate discretion in deciding whether to accept a packed container for loading onto the ship. Availability to both the terminal representative and to the master or his representative of the shipping document containing the verified gross mass of a packed container sufficiently in advance to be used in preparation of the ship's stowage plan is a prerequisite for the container to be loaded onto a ship but it does not constitute an entitlement for loading.

## **9. Threshold for compliance with Verified Gross Mass**

A maximum  $\leq 5\%$  variation in gross mass of a loaded container is applied as a threshold for compliance and enforcement purposes.

## **10. Record of information under SOLAS VI/2**

The Shipper shall keep records of the information under SOLAS VI/2 as listed in Annex 1 for verification purposes.

Any third party that has performed some or all of the packing of the container shall provide the shipper with the information as listed in Annex II.

## **11. List of Registered Service Providers and Shippers**

The Ministry will publish a list of registered Service Providers and Shippers to on its website <http://fisheries.govmu.org>

## **PART II**

### **PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION OF VERIFIED GROSS MASS OF PACKED CONTAINERS**

#### **12. Mauritius Cargo Community System (MACCS)**

##### **Update of the VGM on CCS**

In case that the Shipper (Exporter, Freight Forwarder Agent) decides to submit the VGM information electronically, via the Cargo Community System (CCS), the following steps are to be adhered to:

- A.** Shipper should be registered with both MRA Customs and MACCS Ltd .A username login and password would be provided to the Shipper to access the CCS.
- B.** Shipper must request a booking with Shipping Agent and ensure that the latter:
  - i.** Provides a Booking reference to be used on the Bill of Entry (BOE) and for CCS Purposes.
  - ii.** Nominates the shipper on the CCS, so as to enable the latter to include the VGM information.
  - iii.** Sends the booking to the CCS either by electronic means (COPARN) or otherwise.
- C.** The Shipper would then be able to update the VGM using the MACCS login credential and CCS booking reference.
- D.** After update of the VGM information on the MACCS system (CCS), the Shipper will be able to generate an Export Gate-In Notice (EGIN).This EGIN is to be presented to CHCL counter for securing the Gate Pass.
- E.** During the transition period the export container should receive the status "Shipment Allowed" from MRA Customs before Gate-In at the CHCL Yard and all current documentation in conjunction with the EGIN are to be presented at CHCL counters to secure the Gate pass.

#### **13. Mauritius Revenue Authority – Customs Department**

The MRA Customs Department has issued two notices to stakeholders on 23 May 2016 to give guidance on new SOLAS requirements.

- a.** Exporters (Shippers)- Cargo Community System (CCS) Ocean Export Module and SOLAS Convention, 1974;
- b.** (Shipping Agents) - Cargo Community System (CCS) Ocean Export Module and SOLAS Convention.

#### **14. Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd**

In view of the new requirement of the SOLAS Convention, all export containers gate in at both CHCL terminals namely MCT and MPT must have a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) as from 01 June 2016.

Exporters must present the Export Gate In Notice (EGIN) with a VGM at the CHC Container Logistics Units for gate pass printing.

**Shipping Division  
Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping  
and Outer Islands  
31 May 2016**

**ANNEX 1**  
**INFORMATION ABOUT VERIFIED GROSS MASS OF PACKED CONTAINERS**  
**AS REQUIRED UNDER SOLAS VI/2**

S/N.	General	Information Required
1.	Name of Shipper	
2.	Shipper Registration/License No.	
3.	Name, designation & contact details of person authorised by of the Shipper to sign document.	
4.	Transporter name and Vehicle registered No	
5.	Container No.	
6.	Container Size (TEU/FEU/Other)	
7.	Container Type (Normal/Reefer/Hazardous)	
8.	If Hazardous Type, UN No. IMDG class	
9.	Container Seal No	
11.	Maximum permissible weight of container as per the CLC plate	
12.	<b>Verified Gross Mass</b> of container	
Method 1		Information Required
13.	Name & Address of weighbridge Operator	
14.	Name of Person in charge of weighbridge	
15.	Date and time of weighing	
16.	Weighing slip no.	
17.	Weighbridge: Manufacturer: Model: Serial No:	
18.	Assized weighbridge certificate issued by Legal Metrology Services:  Certificate No:  Valid until:	
Method 2		Information Required
19.	Quality Management Certificate Certificate No: Valid until: Name of issuing Body:	
20.	Calibration/Assized certificate of weighing instrument  Certificate No: Valid until: Name of issuing Body	

**ANNEX II**

**INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY TO A SHIPPER  
SOLAS – VERIFIED GROSS MASS DECLARATION FORM**

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
SHIPPER:	
ADDRESS:	
TYPE OF COMMODITY:	
CONTAINER NUMBER: (Not applicable for LCL*shipper)	
NUMBER OF PACKAGES:	
MARKS AND NUMBERS:	
BOOKED ON VESSEL:	
ETD:	
TOTAL WEIGHT IN KGs OF GOODS TO BE SHIPPED:	
TARE WEIGHT OF CONTAINER IN KGs: (Not applicable for LCL shipper)	
TOTAL GROSS MASS IN KGs: (Not applicable for LCL shipper)	
WEIGHT VERIFIED BY SHIPPER:	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
WEIGHT VERIFIED BY APPROVED THIRD PARTY:	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
IF YES STATE NAME OF PARTY: (Please attach approved third party's weight certificate)	

**NAME OF PERSON MAKING DECLARATION:**

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**I / We the undersigned, duly mandated and authorized to sign the verified Gross Mass Declaration Form related to SOLAS, do confirm that the information mentioned in this form are correct.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Name in full**.....

**Company Seal:** .....