



January 20, 2016

Update on Verified Gross Mass (VGM) requirements in SOLAS Convention

Dear Valued APL Customer,

As [announced earlier](#), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted a new regulation under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) that require shippers to provide a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for every packed containers as a condition for vessel loading. This takes effect from 1 July 2016.

Over the past few months, APL has been working on internal processes and system enhancements to facilitate your VGM submission and ensure timely and accurate handling of the data. In parallel, we have actively been collaborating with industry partners to develop solutions to equip you with the right tools and materials to cope effectively with the SOLAS requirements. These works are currently still in progress.

- As a member of the World Shipping Council (WSC), APL has contributed to the newly released [VGM Industry FAQs](#), a joint document by WSC, the TT Club, the International Cargo Handling Coordination Association (ICHCA), and the Global Shippers' Forum (GSF). This FAQs document seeks to clarify how the SOLAS VGM requirements will function in various situations; identify commercial and operational arrangements that will have to be addressed; and flag issues that must be dealt with by national governments. We strongly recommend that you refer to this set of FAQs if you have any queries on the new requirements.

- APL is also an active participant in INTTRA's eVGM initiative, in which industry experts come together to facilitate a smooth, collaborative transition to industry-wide VGM compliance through digital means. More information on the initiative is available [here](#).

We will continue to keep you apprised of updates with regards to this requirement.

We thank you for your business and continued support.

You may contact APL Customer Support via phone at 1-800-999-7733 or via email at APL_US_CS@apl.com.

Sincerely,

APL Customer Service