



16 Feb, 2016

## [Update on Verified Gross Mass \(VGM\) requirements in SOLAS Convention](#)

Dear Valued 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.

In order to comply with this SOLAS regulation, APL will be implementing a “**No VGM, No Load**” policy by the above deadline.

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.

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Please contact us at 2957 3888 if you no longer wish to receive our communications, and/or, have any update to your contact details.

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- 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](#).

For assistance, please contact your local APL representative.

We thank you for your business and continued support.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to call APL Customer Service at 2957 3888.

Yours sincerely,

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