

Customer Update



Dear valued ZIM customer,

As you are most probably aware, and as already published on ZIM's website, the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) new regulation regarding the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) obliges the Shippers to declare the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of the containers before their loading, as of July 1st, 2016.

As part of this new regulation shippers are required to weigh their cargo in one of two methods:

Method No. 1:

- After packing and sealing a container and using calibrated and certified equipment, the shipper may weigh, or have arranged that a third party weigh, the packed container.

Method No. 2:

- The shipper (or, by arrangement of the shipper, a third party) may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material to be packed in the container, and add the Tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses of the container's contents. Please note the Tare of each container is clearly marked on the container. You can also contact your local ZIM Customer Service Representative who will provide this information as well.

Responsible Party:

The party responsible for providing the Carrier with the VGM is the Shipper who appears on the Carrier B/L. For consolidated cargo, the consolidator will be responsible to provide the combined weights and declare the VGM to the Carrier.

VGM Submission Method:

Shippers can submit their VGM by a number of channels:

- Customers registered with E-Portals can submit their VGM Via the Portals (INTTRA, GTNexus and E&P).
- If provided on time, the VGM can be included in the Shipping Instructions.
- Email to the booking agent.

VGM Submission Cut Off time:

Due to the variances between the working procedures of the different terminals and ports worldwide, the cutoff time may change between the various terminals. We plan to notify the cutoff date for the VGM for your shipment.

The VGM must include the following information:

- VGM (the verified weight of the container, weighed by using one of the two above mentioned methods), including the container number
- The name of the certifier

From July 1st, 2016 we will not be allowed to load to the vessels any cargo received without a VGM.

There are terminals which require receiving the VGM BEFORE the container arrives at their gates. Accordingly you will be requested to submit the VGM prior to container arrival to these terminals.

ZIM will do their utmost to ensure a smooth implementation of this regulation and as we come closer to July 1st, we will continue to keep you advised of any changes or updates.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local ZIM Customer Service representative who will be happy to assist in any way possible.