



Dear valued Clients,

The new regulation covering the SOLAS Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea will become active as from July 1st 2016.

ECU Worldwide would like to advise the trade of its compliance intentions covering this new process.

As per the carriers, the responsibility for obtaining and documenting the VGM of a packed container lies with the shipper shown on the master ocean B/L.

As the shipper on the MBL will be ECU Worldwide, even though we are not the cargo owners, we now become responsible to provide the VGM to the ocean carrier in order to meet the SOLAS and local regulatory requirements and/or specific terminal procedures where applicable.

As the SOLAS regulation will not be applicable for the individual LCL shipments in a groupage container, ECU Worldwide will not require an individual VGM certificate for your LCL shipments.

We assume that the weight that you submit to us is correct and includes the packing of the cargo. There will be few exceptions on this where, in some countries, our offices will require a VGM per shipment as per local rules and regulations but this will be communicated locally.

Carriers request that the VGM is provided sufficiently in advance to allow the ship master and the terminal operators to plan the ship stowage plan.

Consequently we might be forced to advance our closing dates in certain countries.

There is an economic impact that will arise from this new regulation.

ECU Worldwide must organize the VGM certification for both the physical labor as well as the administrative processes involved and as such we will be implementing a SOLAS administration fee of USD 15,00 per shipment for cargo sailing as from July 1st 2016.

Exceptions are following countries:

- USA: nihil
- UK: GBP 3,00 / shipment
- France and Italy: still under consideration

We reserve the right to adjust this fee in case change of local regulations/procedures would force us to.

We have the possibility in most of our warehouses to weigh LCL shipments at a cost in case you or your customer would require this.

In case you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your global or regional key account manager.

With kind regards,

Your Global Account Team,
Email: globalaccounts@ecuworldwide.com