

Frequent Questions and Answers for Implementation of “SOLAS Chapter VI amendments” – “Verified Gross Mass”

May 2016

1. What is the content of “SOLAS Chapter VI amendments” (“VGM rule”)?

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention (Chapter VI, part A, regulation 2), that requires packed containers’ gross mass to be verified prior to stowage aboard ship. As from July 1, 2016, this “VGM rule”, effective as global law, prohibits loading of a packed container in absence of the verified gross mass (VGM). This applies to all packed containers which are to be loaded to a vessel under SOLAS regime in international maritime traffic.

2. When “VGM rule” will commence?

According to IMO, it will be for those containers loaded from the first loading port on and after July 1, 2016.

3. When will Yang Ming implement “VGM rule”?

Yang Ming will obey IMO’s requirement and formally implement “VGM rule” from July 1, 2016 accordingly.

「『國際海上人命安全公約』第六章修正案」--「核實貨櫃重量」的常見問題

2016 年 5 月

1. 「『國際海上人命安全公約』第六章修正案」（「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」）的內容是什麼？

國際海事組織（International Maritime Organization）修正「『國際海上人命安全公約』第六章」的內容，規定載貨貨櫃於上船前，必須先核實貨櫃重量。此「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」將從 2016 年 7 月 1 日起施行，禁止沒有核實過重量的裝貨貨櫃上船。適用範圍為全球須遵守「『國際海上人命安全公約』規定的貨櫃船。

2. 「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」於何時開始實施？

依據國際海事組織的要求，「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」將於 2016 年 7 月 1 日起從裝貨貨櫃的第一個裝貨港開始實施。

3. 陽明何時開始實施「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」？

陽明會遵循國際海事組織的要求，從 2016 年 7 月 1 日起正式實施「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」。

4. Is there any required method of obtaining VGM?

“VGM rule” prescribes two methods by which the shipper may obtain the verified gross mass of a packed container.

Method 1. Upon the conclusion of packing and sealing a container, the shipper may weigh, or have arranged that a third party weigh, the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment.

Method 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. The using method shall be approved by the competent authority of the state in which packing of the container was completed.

In respect of both Method 1 and 2, the weighing equipment used must meet the applicable accuracy standards and requirements of the State in which the equipment is being used.

5. How obtain the tare weight of each container?

The tare weight of each container can be found on the container

4. 法令對於核實重量（「VGM」）的取得有何規定？

「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」提供二種取得 VGM 的方法：

方法一：由貨主或貨主指定的第三方，就已經裝完貨並上好鉛封的貨櫃，使用合格的稱重設施進行稱重。

方法二：由貨主或貨主指定的第三方，對於裝入貨櫃內的所有貨物及包裝（幫括托盤、貨墊及其他包裝和固定材料）進行稱重，然後加計貨櫃皮重。稱重及加總方法應經貨櫃裝載地的主管機關許可。

方法一、二均要求，稱重所使用的設備必須符合設備使用地所在國適用的準確度標準和要求。

5. 如何取得貨櫃皮重？

door.

每個貨櫃的皮重可以在貨櫃門板上發現。

6. Who is obliged to submit VGM?

The shipper named on the bill of lading is the party responsible for obtaining and providing each packed container's VGM to the ocean carrier (or his representative) and/or to the terminal operator, preferably by electronic means, sufficiently in advance of the loading in order to prepare and implement the ship stowage plan.

Please be also aware that "VGM rule" demand VGM must be 'signed' by either the shipper or a person duly authorized by the shipper. The signature can be electronic or be replaced by the name in capitals.

6. 誰應該提供 VGM ?

提單上列名的託運人有義務取得 VGM 並向運送人及/或碼頭申報；申報方式建議使用電子傳輸方式，且應及早提供以便安排船舶裝載計劃。

依據「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」，託運人需以書面具名方式申報 VGM，簽名人可為託運人或其授權代表，簽名方式可為電子簽章也可以大寫姓名為之。

7. Is there a standard format of VGM?

No. "VGM rule" only provides that VGM has to be obtained according to above-mentioned methods (Question 4) and submit to ocean carrier and/or terminal operator with the signature of shipper or the party duly authorized by shipper.

7. 是否有申報 VGM 的標準格式？

沒有。「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」只規定 VGM 的取得方式（請參考問題 4），並要求託運人或其授權代表應在取得 VGM 後，書面具名送交運送人及/或碼頭。

8. What are the accepted VGM submission channel and format by Yang Ming?

Yang Ming provides below methods for submitting VGM

8. 陽明接受 VGM 申報的方式及格式為何？

陽明提供下列方式供託運人或其授權代表申報 VGM：

- 電子資料交換（EDI through VERMAS (EDIFACT message

information:

- EDI through VERMAS (EDIFACT message type)
- YM Web Platform (Developing and will announce in later stage)
- Via data transmission of authorized third party, such as terminal operators who accept nomination from shippers.
- Document in paper through Email/Fax... etc. (Not Recommended)

Data elements required by Yang Ming for VGM submission include:

- Booking Number
- Container Number
- VGM
- Unit of Measurement (KG or LBS)
- VGM Verification Date
- Shipper or Responsible Party Name
- Shipper or Responsible Party Address
- Name of Authorized Person (Signatory)

type))

- 陽明指定網頁（建置中，啟用後會另通知）
- 授權第三方以可接受的資料交換方式，如接受託運人委託的碼頭
- 紙本文件，如電子郵件、傳真等（不推薦）

託運人或其授權代表申報 VGM 時，應提供下列資料：

- 訂艙號碼
- 貨櫃號碼
- 核實貨櫃重量
- 重量單位 (KG or LBS)
- 核實貨櫃重量的稱重日
- 託運人或責任人名稱
- 託運人或責任人地址
- 簽署人姓名（須於簽名欄簽名）

9. What would be the consequence in case of violation of “VGM rule”?

Strict observance to “VGM rule” is required. Any extra cost, risk and liability incurred as a consequence of failure to provide VGM shall be borne by shipper.

Any container without VGM submitted before cut-off time will not be loaded aboard ship. (NO VGM , NO LOAD)

10. Is it mandatory that VGM must be submitted with existing documentation?

No. Combined or separate submissions are both acceptable, but it should be carried out before VGM cut-off time. It is recommended that our customers submit VGM as soon as possible lest the container fails to be loaded due belated submission.

11. When is the cut-off time for VGM submission?

In order not to affect vessel operation, shipper has to submit VGM to Yang Ming before container gate-in, and the cut-off time for the submission of final revision should be 24HRs before the vessel arrived the loading port (estimated arrival time). However, every terminal/port may adjust the time according to the local practice.

9. 違反「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」的後果是什麼？

嚴格遵守「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」是必要的。因未提供或錯誤提供 VGM 而衍生的任何費用、風險及責任都要由託運人負擔。

沒有在指定截止時間內提供 VGM 的貨櫃將禁止裝上船。(NO VGM , NO LOAD)

10. 是否強制要求 VGM 的申報要連同其他文件一起？

不。單獨申報 VGM 或連同其他文件一起申報的方式都接受，但至遲應在指定截止時間前申報。我們推薦客戶應盡早申報 VGM，以免因此擔誤裝船。

11. 何時是 VGM 的申報截止時間？

為免影響船舶航行，託運人必須在貨櫃進場前提供 VGM 給陽明，而申報 VGM 的最終截止時間是船舶預定到港前的 24 小時。但每個碼頭/港口可能會根據當地實際情況有所調整。

12. Do terminals accept container gate-in without VGM?

It depends on each terminal's gate-in policy. However, VGM shall be submitted before cut-off time without fail. Any container without VGM or submitted VGM after cut-off time will not be loaded aboard ship and any extra cost, risk and liability incurred as a consequence of failure to provide VGM in time shall be borne by the shipper.

12. 碼頭是否同意沒有 VGM 的貨櫃可以進場？

這要視各地碼頭自己的貨櫃進場規定。然而 VGM 的申報至少一定要在規定截止時間前。任何沒有 VGM 的貨櫃或是在截止時間後才申報 VGM 的貨櫃，都不會被裝上船，而且任何因此衍生的成本、風險及責任都要由託運人負擔。

13. Does transshipped unit also require VGM information?

Yes. VGM of transshipped unit is required. Only the container with VGM is allowed to be loaded aboard the connecting vessel. If the VGM has been submitted to Yang Ming according to the required procedure (Question 8), Yang Ming will relay it to transshipment ports.

13. 轉運貨櫃是否也要提供 VGM？

要。轉運貨櫃仍然也要提供 VGM。只有已申報 VGM 的貨櫃會安排轉船。如果 VGM 依照要求（請參考問題 8）向陽明申報，陽明就會將 VGM 轉交給轉口港。

14. Is revised VGM acceptable after submission?

It is acceptable to revised VGM before cut-off time, but the cost, risk, and liability thus incurred shall be borne by shipper.

14. 是否接受 VGM 的修改？

VGM 在指定截止時間前都可以修改，但因此衍生的費用、風險及責任等，都必須由託運人負擔。

15. Is there any tolerance for VGM?

Shippers must provide accurate VGM according to "VGM rule". Any

15. VGM 可接受的誤差範圍是多少？

依據「『核實貨櫃重量』規則」，託運人必須提供交運貨櫃的正

container with estimated weight is not allowed.

However, we learned that different countries/areas might have different rules for VGM's tolerance and therefore recommend our customer shall pay attention to and follow those rules.

確 VGM，不允許只提供估計重量。

要提醒的是，各個國家或地區就 VGM 的誤差範圍可能會有不同的規定，託運人應特別注意並遵守。

16. Is VGM still obligatory if gross weight has already been listed on bill of lading? Is there any difference between the two information?

VGM is still obligatory. There is a difference between the definition of gross weight on B/L and VGM. Gross weight refers to total cargo weight while VGM includes tare weight of container and the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container. The application is different either. The gross weight is applied mainly in trade business such as customs declaration, B/L making, etc. while VGM is applied to vessel stowage plan according to "VGM rule".

16. 如果提單上已經有列出毛重時，是否還要提供 VGM？二者的差異是什麼？

提供 VGM 是強制義務。提單上列出的毛重是指貨物重量，而 VGM 是指包含貨櫃毛重、貨重、包裝材料等經過核實的裝貨貨櫃總重量。二者提供的目的也不同，毛重主要是商業貿易用，如為了清關、制作提單等，而 VGM 是用來作船舶配載計劃用。

17. What's the difference between Gross Weight and Max. Gross Weight?

Gross weight refers to total cargo weight while Max. Gross Weight refers to the maximum total weight allowed for each container, including cargo and related mass of pallets, dunnage, etc as well as container tare weight.

17. 毛重 (Gross Weight) 和安全載重 (Max. Gross Weight) 的差別是什麼？

毛重一般是指貨物總重量，而安全載重指的貨櫃容許的最大總重量（包括貨重、包裝材料及貨櫃皮重）。

18. What does Yang Ming do when a certain container is found exceeding Max. Gross Weight?

If a loaded container is found exceeding Max. Gross Weight, this container will not be loaded aboard ship even with the proper VGM documentation.

18. 如果發現有重櫃超過安全載重時，陽明會如何處理？

如果發現有載貨貨櫃的重量超過安全載重時（Max. Gross Weight），這個貨櫃即使有申報正確的 VGM 都會被拒絕裝船。

19. How would YM deal with the condition that a discrepancy is found between VGM and its actual weight?

Yang Ming is not obliged to verify or check the accuracy of declared VGM. However, if Yang Ming finds the declared VGM is different with its actual weight, Yang Ming is entitled to request the shipper re-submit new VGM or reject the container. All costs, risks and liabilities thus incurred shall be borne by shipper.

19. 當陽明發現貨櫃的實際重量和申報的 VGM 不同時，會如何處理？

陽明沒有義務去確認託運人申報的 VGM 是否正確。然而，當陽明因故發現有貨櫃申報的 VGM 和實際重量有差異時，陽明有權要求託運人重新提供 VGM 或是拒收該貨櫃。因此衍生的費用、風險及責任都必須由託運人負擔。

20. Does Yang Ming provide weighing service?

Yang Ming will not provide such service.

20. 陽明是否提供稱重服務？

本公司並未提供稱重服務。

21. What is the VGM data flow?

Under general circumstances, VGM data transmission is “Shipper → Carrier → Terminal”. If customer authorized the terminal to provide such information, the flow is then “Terminal → Shipper

21. VGM 的資料流為何？

一般情況下，VGM 的傳送方式為「託運人→運送人→碼頭」。但如果託運人委託碼頭提供稱重服務時，則傳送方式會是「碼頭→託運人→運送人」。

→Carrier.”

22. When is the global notice with respect to “VGM” issued by Yang Ming?

The latest version is updated on YM’s website on Apr 12, 2016.

http://www.yangming.com/news/Press_Release/PressContent.aspx?UID=2331

22. 陽明有針對 VGM 發送全球公告嗎？

陽明針對 VGM，在 2016 年 4 月 12 日發送全球公告。

http://www.yangming.com/news/Press_Release/PressContent.aspx?UID=2331

23. Where to get further information?

More information with regards to “VGM” can be found on:

<http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

23. 如何取得更多訊息？

更多關於 VGM 的訊息，請參考世界航運協會的網站。

<http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

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