



UNIVERSAL FORWARDING OVERSEAS NEWSLETTER

June 20, 2016

Established 1978

SOLAS – VERIFIED GROSS MASS REQUIREMENTS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) to require, as a condition for loading a packed container onto a vessel for export, that the container weight has been verified. The shipper is responsible for providing the Verified Gross Mass (VGM). This requirement will become legally effective for all shipments departing the port on or after July 1, 2016.

U.S. exporters will be responsible for verifying the weight of the cargo in the packed container and also report the tare weight of the container. Tare weights can be found on the container door. Shippers will provide this information, along with the name of the person preparing the information, to UFO with the paperwork you currently send to UFO for each shipment.



Photo courtesy of www.joc.com

UFO will file the VGM information within the required timeline to ensure containers will be accepted at the port. For shipments moving via rail to the port, VGM is due at the same time as the shipping instructions UFO currently submits on your behalf. For shipments trucked directly to the port, VGM is due two hours prior to the container arriving at the port.

UFO will continue to list the Documents Due date on each booking confirmation. Please submit paperwork along with VGM information prior to this date to ensure your containers will not be turned away at the terminal.

Carriers and service providers will be assessing fees as a result of the increased handling and technology required to manage VGM submissions in compliance with the SOLAS regulations. Shippers will be responsible for these fees on U.S. export shipments.

UFO will continue to monitor the situation and will advise as more details become available. Please contact Marc Mugfor (mmugfor@ufold.com) with any questions or concerns regarding SOLAS.