



Across the Ocean Shipping Pty Ltd

Suite 201, 13 Cremorne Street, Richmond. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3121

Tel: + 61 3 9427 0015 Fax: + 61 3 9427 0049 Mobile: + 61 (0) 419 873 763

ACN No: 162 529 035 Web: www.atoshipping.com

Verified Gross Mass (VGM) Declaration for Export Containers Notice to Customers

With Australia to enforce Verified Gross Mass (VGM) on shipping documents from 22nd June 2016, it will be mandatory for shippers to declare a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for all export containers. This is an international requirement under amendments to the IMO *Safety of Life at Sea* (SOLAS) Convention, which will be enforced in Australia by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) through amendments to Marine Orders Part 42 (MO42) under the *Navigation Act 2012*.

From 22nd June 2016, no packed container will be loaded onto a ship unless the ship's master, or his representative and terminal representative have obtained, in advance of the ship's loading, the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of the container.

The "shipper" means the legal entity or person named on the ocean Bill of Lading.

The law allows for the VGM to be obtained by one of two methods:

Method 1: Weighing the packed container; or

Method 2: Weighing all the packages and cargo items, including pallets, dunnage or other packing materials, and then adding the tare mass of the container.

Once the VGM of the container has been obtained, the weight must be declared on the shipping documents by the shipper, or the authorised representative of the shipper. The declaration can be provided electronically.

The commonly used electronic message to declare the VGM to the container terminals is the 1-Stop Pre-Receipt Advice (PRA). The 1-Stop PRA has been amended to meet the new SOLAS VGM requirements.

For Patrick, DP World and Hutchison terminals, a valid PRA must have been lodged with the terminal through 1-Stop before the container is allowed to be delivered to the terminal for export. If there is no PRA, the truck cannot be manifested to enter the terminal.

The Terminals have announced that 1-Stop will enforce the mandatory inclusion of the VGM in the 1-Stop PRA from Wednesday, 22nd June 2016 to ensure compliance with the international VGM requirements for containers loaded from 1st July 2016.

Where customers do not have the alternate solution and request Across the Ocean Shipping Pty Ltd to provide the VGM, we will arrange Method option 1, by taking the container to a public weighbridge. An additional fee for deviation and weighbridge ticket will be charged per container.