

# Newsflash– 2016

05/12/2016

## SOLAS Regulation – Guidance

### Methods to determine the Verified Gross Mass (VGM)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to give you a detailed overview about the methods to determine the Verified Gross Mass (VGM).

#### Method 1

Method 1 describes the determination of VGM by weighing the full container without the vehicle unit. The See-BG (Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure/Ship Safety Division) announces that at least scales of the accuracy class IV according to EU regulation 2009/23/EG (since 20.04.2016/2014/31/EU) must be used for Method 1.

#### Method 2

Method 2 is an alternative which is allowed to be used to determine the VGM. For the determination of the individual weights a scale of the accuracy class 3 must be used.

At this point we would like to explain again how the VGM is determined:

Container tare weight (weight which is mentioned at the container's front door)  
+ weight of commodity incl. packaging materials (gross weight)  
+ weight of load dunnage (material used for securing of loaded cargo)  
= VGM (Verified Gross Mass)

For the implementation it is not necessary to get a special certificate. Companies which are certified according to DIN/ISO 9001 or 28001 or which have an AEO authorization can draw a SOP which contains the complete process description. These instructions have to be implemented into the management system. During the next audit it will be taken into account.

Alternatively, there will be a general method for determining VGM at the German sea ports which also can be used. There will not be any additional procedures for approval. Additional evidence of certification will not be necessary.

At this point, we would like to mention again that Method 2 is used if the VGM is determined by weighing the empty and the loaded container on vehicle unit. The weight has to be calculated as follows:

1. Weighing of the empty vehicle unit (truck, chassis, empty container)
2. Weighing of the full vehicle unit (truck, chassis, full vehicle unit)
3. Calculating the difference between the empty and the full vehicle unit plus the container tare weight  
= VGM (Verified Gross Mass)

If you decide to determine the VGM by using Method 2 you are need to use a scale of the accuracy class IV. If you do not have an own scale, we recommend to look for an public scale close to your site. Please contact scale operator to make an agreement how the weighing will be paid and how the data will be reported to you.

The See-BG announced that inaccuracies of the used scales or other deviations due to f.e. snow on the container roof or wood moisture will be tolerated up to 2 percent.

The question is if a signature is necessary to confirm the VGM or if the name of the person in charge in capital letters would be enough, answered by See-BG as follows: "If you transmit your data via EDI/Vermas or email, the name in capital letters is enough. This is not valid in case of transmission of an PDF or similar documents. Even a fax would be considered as a written document and in this case the VGM would need to have a handwritten signature."

To enable a smooth implementation of the new SOLAS regulation, we kindly ask you to discuss the following questions with your Leschaco Customer Service. Together we will work out, how we can transmit the data to all necessary systems.

1. Which method will be used in your company?
2. How shall the data be transmitted? Via EDI (VERMAS), CMR, weighing note or other shipping documents?
3. How will the container tare weight be determined?
4. Which data will be transmitted next to the mandatory information (shipper, container number, date, CGM)?
5. Are there already responsible persons for the determination of VGM within your company/certified persons?

Please be informed that the VGM will only be used for the stowage planning by the shipping companies. For the creation of other documents the VGM is not mandatory.

We have to inform you that additional costs related to the VGM are for the account of cargo. Equally, the shipper is responsible for the calculation, transmission and accuracy of the VGM.

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