

## SOLAS COMPLIANCE MADE SIMPLE

### ❖ What is it?

The IMO (International Maritime Organization), amended Chapter VI of the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention as of July 2016 to require mandatory verification of the gross mass of containers.

### ❖ How does it work?

VGM (Verified Gross Mass) must be provided prior to ship loading, by the shipper; carriers will not board containers for which there is no VGM.



### ❖ Who is the shipper?

The party named as Shipper on the Bill of Lading.

### ❖ How does the shipper verify Gross Mass

There are two acceptable means to verify Gross Mass. Both of these options require the shipper's authorized signature (can be electronic).

- Weigh the fully laden container **OR**
- Weigh all of the contents of the container and packaging material and add the tare weight (Tare weight is sometimes called un-laden weight - the weight of an empty container)

### ❖ What Walker has done to help you be compliant?

- A user-friendly form is available for you to utilize to verify Gross Mass. This form can be found on our website <http://www.walkerscm.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/VGM-Statement-2016-06-07.pdf> **OR**
- We can send it to you via email
- Or ask us your questions via email [SOLASHelpDesk@witlogistics.com](mailto:SOLASHelpDesk@witlogistics.com)

### ❖ Other things to consider

- Enforcement is up to local governments
- Scales used in the weighing of containers or container contents must be calibrated and certified
- Local ordinances & rules can be applied by local governments
- Most Carriers provide TARE Weight for their equipment on their web sites

### ❖ Fees

- Walker's fee for the administration of VGM Certification will be \$20.00 per certificate

### ❖ Helpful Links

- <http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>
- [http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/MSC\\_1-Circ\\_1475 - Guidelines Regarding The Verified Gross Mass Of A Container Carrying Cargo -Secretariat-.pdf](http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/MSC_1-Circ_1475_-_Guidelines_Regarding_The_Verified_Gross_Mass_Of_A_Container_Carrying_Cargo_-_Secretariat-.pdf)
- [http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/faqs/SOLAS VGM Industry FAQs Dec 2015 US letter WEB.pdf](http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/faqs/SOLAS_VGM_Industry_FAQs_Dec_2015_US_letter_WEB.pdf)