

Marine Notice No. 05 of 2016 Notice to all Shippers, Consignors, Freight Forwarder, Ship-owners, Masters, Charterers, Terminal Operators, Ports, Carriers, Seafarers and others involved in the transport of containers

New SOLAS requirements for the Verification of the Gross Mass of Containers

New regulations are coming into force from the **1st July 2016**, to ensure that export containers are accurately weighed and that weight is accurately declared.

Following some high profile incidents involving the mis-declaration of container weights, an amendment to **SOLAS Chapter VI Part "A" Regulation 2**, now effectively means – "no weight, no load".

This is due to have a dramatic effect on the shipping industry, with shippers (as declared on the bill of lading) being made legally responsible to accurately declare the weights.

If you are loading full containers for export, you'll need to supply a **VGM (Verified Gross Mass)** in time for the vessel planned.

On this basis, if you are loading full containers you will, by law, need to be registered as a **VGM**, or pay for the container to transit via an approved weighbridge. This will inevitably be at a cost.

For **LCL / Groupage** shipments the weight verification still applies, meaning you will either have to apply for VGM status or alternatively have your cargo weighed externally. This will also be at a cost.

In the first instance we suggest you make contact with either the **Irish Maritime Administration, Department of Transport**, Tel Dublin 01 678 3400 or by email to MSO@dtas.ie or contact us directly for more information.

These changes also apply to **our cross-trades and operations in the United Kingdom**, you may need to also contact MCA in the UK directly by email; container.weight@mcga.gov.uk

We will continue to keep you updated, as the deadline will be coming soon...

Kind regards,

Tobin Shipping and Transport Limited,
Dublin, Ireland

sales@tobinshipping.ie
www.tobinshipping.ie

Dated 01/03/2016