

THE CARGO XPRESS



On 1 July 2016 the IMO's SAFETY Maritime Commission, Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) will implement new mandatory international regulations. These will require every packed container due for sea export to have a verified container weight as a condition for vessel loading.

The regulations have been compiled to improve stowage plans, capabilities and stability of vessels, loading plans and the safe handling of containers at port and sea. The US has long required all export containers to be weighed and, according to the Association of Ports and Harbours this has improved safety levels.

Containers gross verified weight will need to be provided to the ocean carrier and port terminal representative; the responsibility for which will be on the shipper of a packed container, regardless of who packed the container. Details will have to be provided sufficiently in advance of vessel loading to be used in the preparation of the ship stowage plan.

Verification of container weights can be undertaken in 2 ways; for full container loads (FCL's) the shipper, or selected third party may weigh the packed container. The devices used to verify the gross mass of the container must meet the applicable accuracy standards and requirements of the country in which the equipment is being used. For further information please refer to the World Shipping Council website: <http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

For any further information on this new regulation please do not hesitate to contact your local **The Cargo Xpress** office and we will be only too pleased to assist you.

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