

## VGM (VERIFIED GROSS MASS)

### THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING VERIFIED GROSS MASS

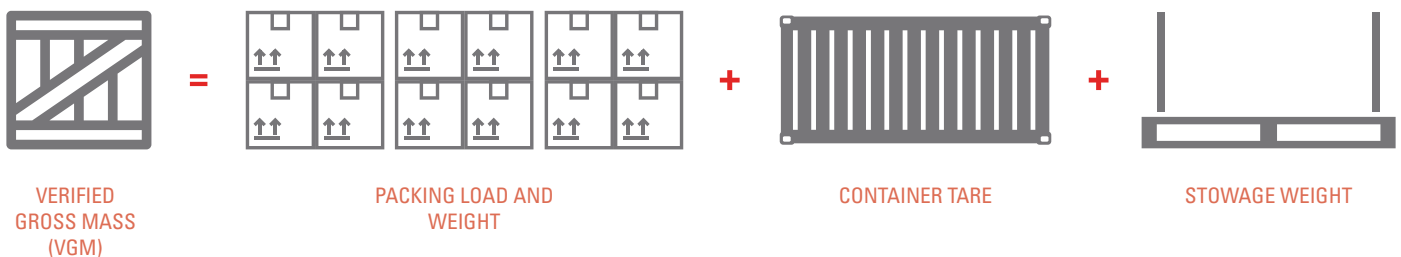
In order to guarantee the safety of the vessel, the workers on board and on land, the cargo and the general safety at sea, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention), amended, establishes in Chapter VI, Part A, Regulation 2, the mandatory gross mass verification of packed containers before the container is loaded aboard a vessel.

This obligation will enter into force on 1 July 2016.

Any discrepancies between the weight declared by the shippers and the actual gross mass of a packed container may lead to incorrect vessel stowage decisions, thus resulting in serious incidents both at sea and at the port.

### VERIFIED GROSS MASS (VGM)

It is the sum of the tare mass of the container and the masses of all the bundles and cargo items, including the pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing materials to be packed in the container.



### WHAT SHOULD THE EXPORTER DO?

- Analyze internal proceedings to determine who is legally responsible for reporting the VGM (the shipper or the logistics operator)
- Assess the options to weigh the cargo, considering costs and procedures.
- Decide whether a weighing services provider should go onboard the vessel.
- Consider the requirements and documentation/physical cut-off times for the supply of VGM to the terminal.
- Be informed of the regulations and possible sanctions to be implemented by local authorities.

## OPTIONS FOR THE EXPORTER

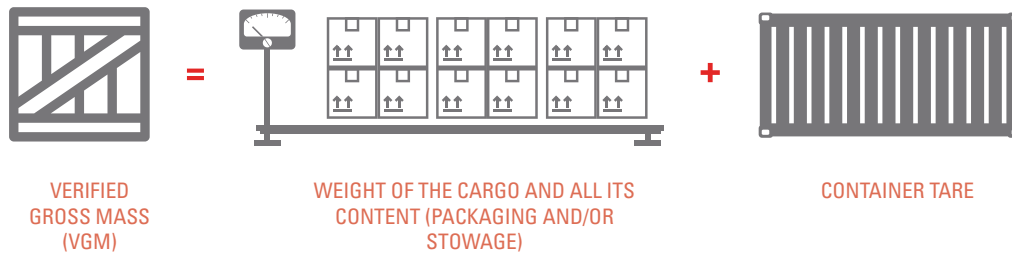
### METHOD 1

Weighing the loaded container on a weighbridge and subtracting lorry and chassis weight.



### METHOD 2

Weighing the loaded container on a weighbridge and subtracting lorry and chassis weight.



The tare is clearly indicated on the container door (see images) and it varies depending on the size and type of the unit. International regulations establish that the tare, the maximum weight with which the container has to be packed (NET) and the maximum weight the container can stand including the cargo and the tare (MAX. GR.) must be indicated on the units.

