



I.C.E. TRANSPORT CO., INC.  
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"Your Total Transportation Corporation"

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IMPORTANT – NEW REGULATIONS GOING INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2016!

To Our Valued Customers,

As you may be aware, in order to improve safety of the supply chain, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has made amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention Chapter VI, Regulation 2, Paragraph 6 indicating that all shippers must verify the gross mass of a packed export container prior to vessel loading. These new regulations are scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2016.

Verified Gross Mass (VGM) is the total gross mass of a packed container which includes the cargo weight, block and bracing materials as well as the container tare. The VGM must be provided by the shipper for the vessel and terminal operators to arrange for safe vessel and terminal stowage plans.

There are two permissible methods outlined by IMO that shippers may use to determine the VGM of a packed container.

1. The packed container may be weighed using calibrated and certified weighing equipment.
2. The VGM may be calculated by adding the weight of the cargo items, packaging (pallets, dunnage, securing materials, etc.), and the container tare weight by means of certified weighing equipment.

The weighing equipment used for both methods must meet national certification and calibration requirements. Estimated weights are not permitted and a violation of SOLAS regulations.

As VGM submission cut-off times will most likely vary from carrier to carrier and from terminal to terminal, you will be advised by us on our booking confirmation of the specific VGM cut-off for your shipment.

I.C.E. Transport will require from the shipper of record the following information in writing:

- Booking Number
- Container Number
- Verified Gross Mass (VGM)
- Name of Authorized Person submitting the information

In case of need, I.C.E. Transport will strive to assist our customers with obtaining the VGM via method 1 described above. Charges for this service will be quoted on a case by case basis.

As this is a tremendous undertaking on a Worldwide scale, there are still many unanswered questions about various details of these new procedures and new information becomes available on an on-going basis. We will continue to keep you updated on any developments, but at the same time, we would like to make you aware of potential delays, congestion at terminals and certified scales as well as possible additional costs as these new regulations go into effect.

Please feel free to reach out to our customer service department with any questions that you may have.

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