
The SOLAS Container Weight Verification Requirement

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has amended the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) to require, as a condition for loading a packed container onto a ship for export, that the container has a verified weight. This requirement becomes legally effective on 1 July, 2016.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to provide the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) for the container. If however, the shipper cannot provide the VGM, the Port of Tyne can offer a weighing facility.

The Port of Tyne has invested in state-of-the-art weighing equipment, which provides shippers with a service to provide an accurate weight, referred to as a Terminal Verified Gross Mass (TVGM). As the weighing procedure is part of the normal lift-off process it will not create disruption or delays to the gate-in or lift-off operation.

The following is a guide to customers, shippers and shipping lines on how Port of Tyne can provide a TVGM to allow containers to be exported.

1. Port of Tyne's TVGM

- 1.1. Weighing equipment is available at the Port of Tyne to provide weight information on request, using an Automated Catch Weighing Instrument, which complies with directive 2004/22/EC as class Y(b).
- 1.2. The TVGM will be determined by load cell technology on the Port of Tyne's reach stackers, in compliance with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) certification requirements. The weighing of laden export containers will be integrated into the standard operating practice within the terminal operation.
- 1.3. The weight registered from the load cell technology will be recorded in the Ports of Tyne's Terminal Operating System (TOS).
- 1.4. Charges for providing a TVGM will be applied to the export declarant in the UK Community system known as Destin8. The charges are:
 - **£17.50 per container** to provide a TVGM with an electronic signature. This also includes an EDI message from the Port of Tyne's TOS via EIN or EIN_A to Destin8 or VERMAS Outbound message to the shipper or shipping line.
 - **£10 mis-declaration** fee (in addition to the £17.50) if the VGM provided by shipper or shipping line differs by more than 5%, up to a maximum tolerance of 500kg from the TVGM.

2. Containers without a VGM

- 2.1. Containers can be accepted into the terminal without a pre-advised VGM upon arrival. If a VGM has not been received 24 hours prior to scheduled vessel arrival, the TVGM will be allocated and the charges (listed above in 1.4) will be applied to the export declarant.
- 2.2. The Port of Tyne will provide a TVGM on the request of a shipper or shipping line and provide the weight in a report, email or EDI format as per agreement with the shipper

or shipping line. The Port of Tyne will update records in Destin8 with a digital signature using Destin8 formatted EDI messages.

- 2.3. If, at the point of receiving the export load list, it is established there is no VGM entered against a container, the Port of Tyne will allocate the TVGM against the container and transmit an EDI message into Destin8. The export declarant in Destin8 will receive the charge for this work.

3. Containers with pre-advised VGM

- 3.1. For containers that are pre-advised with a VGM, Port of Tyne will also record a TVGM which will be held within the Port of Tyne's TOS and will be available for the MCA for auditing purposes.
- 3.2. If the shipper or shipping line has obtained or intends to supply their own VGM, this information must be electronically transmitted through Destin8, to the Port of Tyne, no less than 24 hours prior to scheduled vessel arrival. If not, the TVGM will be allocated and the charges (listed above in 1.4) will be applied to the export declarant.
- 3.3. Manual paperwork or electronically scanned copies of VGM certificates will not be accepted at the terminal.
- 3.4. Containers arriving with a VGM that have a mis-declaration of more than 5%, up to a maximum tolerance of 500kg from the TVGM, may be reported on a case by case basis to the MCA. Any containers outside this tolerance will be updated in the Port of Tyne TOS and a mis-declaration fee applied.

4. Port of Tyne's support team

Technical & System Enquiries

Craig Cotterill – Operational Process & Systems Development Manager

Tel: 0191 427 4303

Email: craig.cotterill@portoptyne.co.uk

Operational Enquiries

Graeme Hardie – Head of Operations

Tel: 0191 4278153

Email: graeme.hardie@portoptyne.co.uk

Account Set Up

If you do not already have an account with the Port of Tyne, you can request an account application form from:

Lyndsey Magee – Accounts Payable Controller

Tel: 0191 440 7495

Email: lyndsey.magee@portoptyne.co.uk

Completed forms should be returned to Lyndsey Magee and Den Barrington.

Den Barrington – Commercial Manager, Logistics

Tel: 0191 427 4309

Email: den.barrington@portoptyne.co.uk