



**AQUALINE**  
International, Inc.

Dear valued customers,

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) has adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) Convention.

As of July 1, 2016, all loaded containers are required to have a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) declared by Shippers to the respective ocean carriers with whom the containers are booked.

### ***What is Verified Gross Mass (VGM)?***

The VGM consists of the total gross cargo weight, dunnage and container tare weight and applies to packed containers tendered to the ocean carrier.

As part of this new regulation, shippers are required to weigh their cargo in one of two methods:

#### ***Method No. 1:***

- After packing and sealing a container and using calibrated and certified equipment, the shipper may weigh, or have arranged that a third party weigh, the packed container.

#### ***Method No. 2:***

- The shipper (or, by arrangement of the shipper, a third party) may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material to be packed in the container, and add the Tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses of the container's contents.

Please note the Tare of each container is clearly marked on the container.

### **VGM Submission Cut Off time:**

Due to the variances between the working procedures of the different terminals and ports worldwide, the cutoff time may change between the various terminals. We plan to notify the cutoff date for the VGM for your shipment.

### **The VGM must include the following information:**

- VGM (the verified weight of the container, weighed by using one of the two above mentioned methods), including the container number
- Name of person authorized by shipper

From July 1st, 2016 we will not be allowed to load to the vessels any cargo received without a VGM.

There are terminals which require receiving the VGM BEFORE the container arrives at their gates. Accordingly you will be requested to submit the VGM prior to container arrival to these terminals.

We will do the utmost to ensure a smooth implementation of this regulation and as we come closer to July 1st, we will continue to keep you advised of any changes or updates.

Please feel free to contact our Customer Service representative if you have any questions.

**Aqualine International, Inc.**