

SOLAS Container Weight Verification



SAMSA is a signatory of the SOLAS Convention. The SOLAS Container Weight Verification Requirement is enforceable in all ports from 1 July 2016.



Containers are regularly overpacked. Even if within CSC limit, the weight can be misdeclared to shipping line.

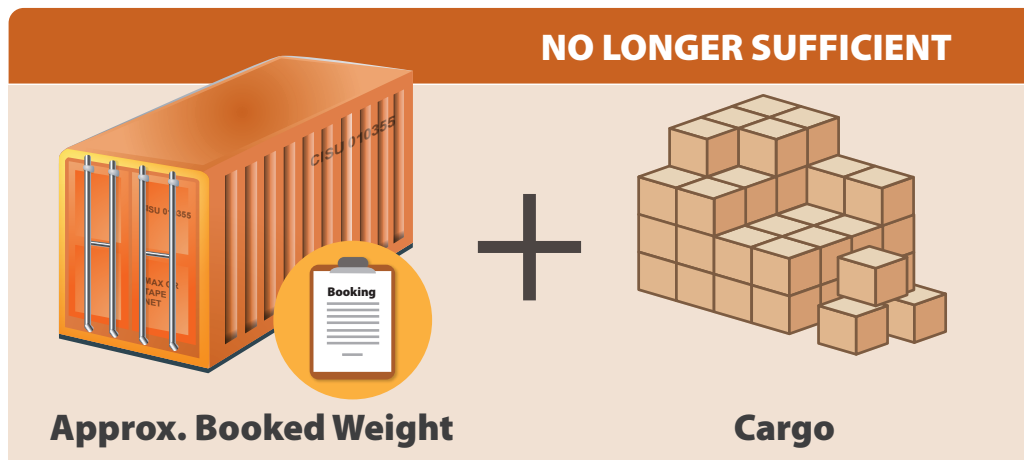


Vessel stowage is planned based on the declared weight. Misdeclared weight can significantly increase risk to crew, port workers, property and cargo.



Verified Gross Mass (VGM) requires that the weight of each packed container be proven.

This includes the cargo, container tare and all loading equipment not just weight declared in Booking plus weight declared on the Bill of Lading.



CSC Container Safety Convention **IMO** International Maritime Organisation **VGM** Verified Gross Mass
NRCS National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications **SOLAS** Safety of Life at Sea Convention
SAMSA South African Maritime Safety Authority, an agency of the Department of Trade

COMPONENTS OF REQUIRED VGM CALCULATION



How to declare Verified Gross Mass

PRESCRIBED METHODS FOR DETERMINING VGM

SOLAS regulations prescribe two methods by which the shipper may obtain the verified gross mass of a packed container:

1 Once packed and sealed, an approved scale (such as a weighbridge) may be used to determine the gross mass.

2 Weigh the cargo AND all packing materials, pallets and dunnage. Add the Tare weight of the EMPTY container, to determine the gross mass.

Scales must be approved and calibrated in line with the legal Metrology Act (2014). Method 2 is subject to SAMSA approval.



Must be "signed" by named representative of shipper, verifying accuracy of the weight calculation.

The "master" forwarder on Bill of Lading responsible for accurate verification of all cargo from co-loading forwarders, and may not use declared cargo weights.

VGM must be provided along with other documentation, prior to stowage plan being created by shipping line.

A packed container without verified weight shall not be loaded onto the ship.

Pre-Advice must include SAMSA Certification No. to avoid container being rejected by the port.

TOPAZ CONTAIN-A-WEIGH: A SIMPLE SOLUTION

The notable benefits of using the Contain-a-Weigh platform, comes with the peace of mind that compliance with SOLAS and other regulations offer.

- By providing the service internally, data can be used elsewhere in operational metrics.
- Provide weights for other manufacturers/shippers as a service for quicker ROI.
- Topaz CAW is supplied customized to requirement.
- Topaz CAW can run as a desktop application with a user friendly GUI, or run as a windows service if you require data to pass to your ERP system.
- Topaz CAW can communicate with almost all electronic scale devices either via RS232 or Ethernet communications.
- Scanning items to containers is also possible for weigh-labelled products, should you wish to pre-weigh prior to container loading.

Avoid the danger of containers held at port due to incorrect VGM - ensure verified weights come from a known & trusted source.



Easily keep standards in check and maintain port relations. TOPAZ Contain-a-Weigh offers consistent and reliable data output, adhering to local & International freight regulations.

ENQUIRIES

 **topaz**
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