

SOLAS CONTAINER WEIGHT VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT

WHAT'S CHANGING?

The United Nations' International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee 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.

Shippers will be responsible for providing the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of the container on the shipping documents.

► [SOLAS container weight verification requirement \(PDF\)](#)

WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?

All shippers, worldwide.

WHY THE CHANGE?

It's all about safety of ships and seafarers. Some serious shipping incidents in the past have shown that declared container weights are commonly inaccurate or grossly understated.

WHEN DOES IT CHANGE?

From 1st July 2016 no containers can be loaded onto a vessel unless the VGM weight has been declared, therefore the new VGM requirements will be operating by 15th June 2016.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are two weighing methods set out below. Port Nelson's weighbridge is currently on a first come, first served basis. Please take into consideration the additional time to complete this process, and contact us for further information and if you wish to set up an account.

Once the container is gated in by the Port Container Terminal the VGM information will be sent by Port Nelson via standard EDI messaging to the corresponding Shipping Line.

PORTS IN NEW ZEALAND:

The designated authority is **Maritime New Zealand**.

- [Container weighing questions and answers](#)
- [New Zealand port companies' notice to shippers and shipping lines \(PDF\)](#)

WEIGHING METHODS

1



Weigh the packed container, using calibrated and certified weighing equipment. Subtract the weight of the truck, chassis and fuel to get the container weight.

2



Weigh all the individual contents of the container, including any packing material and dunnage, and adding it to the tare weight (empty weight) of the container.

[MORE INFO](#) ▼



WHAT ARE YOU REQUIRED TO DO?

Port Nelson must have the VGM information before the container is received into the Port Container Terminal. There are two options:

1



ONLINE PRENOTE (QUICK & EFFICIENT)

New online version will have a mandatory field to enter and certify your VGM. Paper documents/Carters Note available online to print. PIN provided to allow truck drivers an express entry into Port Nelson.

2



MANUAL GATE IN AT PORT NELSON

Truck required to park in the waiting area adjacent to Port Nelson Cargo Reception. The truck driver is to present paper document/Carters Note and weighbridge ticket to Cargo Reception.

QUAYPACK

QuayPack is Port Nelson's dedicated on-site consolidation service.

- Containers packed onsite by QuayPack can be weighed with certified weighing equipment fitted to Port Nelson container handlers, once the container doors are sealed
- This certified weight will be entered into our systems as the container is transferred to the Port Container Terminal
- There will be a charge per container for this service, please contact us for details: quaypack@portnelson.co.nz
- Shippers will sign a declaration that they authorise Port Nelson/QuayPack to certify the VGM on their behalf
- Once the container is gated in by the Port Container Terminal the VGM information will be sent by Port Nelson via standard EDI messaging to the corresponding Shipping Line
- QuayPack will provide a report of certified VGM container weights to the shipper prior to the vessel departure.