

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 90 OF 2016

(Shipping Requirement)

**Approved Weighing Equipment for Verification of Gross Mass of
a Packed Container**

The Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Carriage of Cargoes) Regulation, Cap. 369AV, (Revision 2016) (hereunder called “the Regulation”) will come into force on 1 July 2016. Section 3A of the Regulation incorporated the new requirement of Amendment to SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2 requires shippers to verify the gross mass of packed containers and declare to carriers before loading them on vessel.

One of the methods for verification of container gross mass (VGM) is to weigh a packed container directly by using an approved weighing equipment. As such, a piece of the record of gross mass of the packed container is needed to be issued by the concerned weighing operator.

Some approved weighing equipment operators do not possess lifting appliances in situ for lifting the packed container from the trailer for measuring the sole gross mass of a container. In that case, these operators are required to carry out two weighing operations, i.e. one for the trailer and one for the packed container plus the trailer. They are required to provide two record sheets as proof of compliance with the above weighing operations. The VGM of the packed container is the result of the subtraction of the two readings.

The approval status may be revoked if the approved weighing equipment operator does not follow the above instructions. The public accessible list of approved weighing equipment on the Marine Department’s website provides information on the above two types of operators.

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