Briefing session of

“Verification of Container Mass”
(The new requirement)

Marine Industrial Safety Section
Marine Department
April-May, 2016
Origin of the new requirement

- In November 2014, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of International Maritime Organization (IMO) officially adopted the “Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo” submitted by a working group under the committee.

- In July 2016, the guideline to be in force in all member states.

- 《Merchant Shipping (Safety)(Carriage of Cargo) Regulation》 (Cap. 369AV) Section 3 – “Cargo information to be furnished before loading”
Sub-section (1):

- A master or owner of a ship, or person assigned…to take charge of loading cargoes on the ship shall not accept for carriage…any cargo unless the shipper of the cargo has, before the cargo is accepted, furnished such master, owner or person with information on the cargo …

Sub-section (3):

- Information on cargoes referred to in sub-section (1) shall be-
  
  (b) (ii) the gross mass of the cargo or, where the cargo is carried in cargo units; the gross mass of such cargo units
• **Shipper**

in relation to a cargo, means a person named in a bill of lading, sea waybill or an equivalent multimodal transport document as the shipper of the cargo and/or who (or in whose name or on whose behalf) has concluded a contract of carriage with a shipping company;
Making reference to the IMO’s guideline, Hong Kong Marine Department issued a “Guidelines on the Verification of Gross Mass of a Container with Cargo Packed in Hong Kong” to assist the industry to comply with the new requirement. The guideline is available at the website of Marine Department.
Part I Preliminary

1. Regulatory Organization
   Marine Department of the Government of the HKSAR ("MD") is the authority
   regulates the container mass verification in Hong Kong. The regulatory work
   includes the following:
   (i) to establish legislation in respect of captioned SOLAS requirement,
   (ii) to enforce the legislation,
   (iii) to register shippers\(^1\) operating with submitted container mass verification
        procedures,
   (iv) to maintain a register of registered shippers,
   (v) to maintain a list of approved weighing scales,
   (vi) to carry out random audit inspection.

Part II Verification of Container Mass

2. Core Principles
   2.1 Shipper is responsible to obtain and record the verified gross mass of packed
        container in documentary format.

   2.2 In case any container comprises more than one shipper’s cargo, the entity
        consolidates, seals and delivers the container to the carrier shall be

\(^1\) Shipper means a legal entity or person named on the bill of lading or sea waybill or equivalent
multimodal transport document (e.g. “through” bill of lading) as shipper and/or who (or in whose name
or on whose behalf) a contract of carriage has been concluded with a carrier.
Aim of new requirement

1) Reduce loss of containers
2) Improve safety of work personnel, vessel and equipment
Applicability

- The guideline ("Guidelines on Verification of Gross Mass of a Container with Cargo Packed in Hong Kong") apply to all containers to which the CSC (Convention of Safety Containers) applies, and which are to be stowed onto a ship to be subject to SOLAS Chapter VI.
Core principle

- Shipper is responsible to obtain and record the verified gross mass of packed container in documentary format.

- Shipper shall submit the shipping document with verified gross mass to the Carrier and the Terminal (via carrier) for the purpose of formulation of stowage plan at the earliest.
Methods to verify the gross mass of packed containers

Method 1:
Direct weighing

Method 2:
Accumulation of weights
Method 1

• Weighing the packed container with various weighing facilities.

**TRUCK SCALE**
The weighing facilities approved by Marine Department have to be used. The list of approved weighing facilities is available at the website of Marine Department.

Report of the annual calibration has to be submitted to Marine Department.

(The procedure to apply for approved weighing facility is available in the website of Marine Department.)
Procedures of Application for Approval of Weighing Scale for Gross Mass Verification of a Container Carrying Cargo by Method 1

The weighing scale operator in Hong Kong who is interested in obtaining Marine Department’s approval shall submit the required application materials as follows:

**Application Materials Required**

1. The name of weighing scale operator, contact details including name, phone number, fax number, email and address of Person-in-Charge (Both in English and Chinese)
2. Relevant weighing experience of the weighing scale operator
3. Address where the packed container weighing to be conducted by the weighing scale operator. (Both in English and Chinese)
4. Copy of Hong Kong Business Registration Certificate of weighing scale operator
5. Details of weighing scale including:
   - Maker
   - Model
   - Serial number
   - Type (such as side loader, reach stacker or weighbridge, etc)
   - Year of manufacture
   - Maximum capacity
   - Accuracy
   - Photos of the weighing scale
6. Calibration proof of weighing scale from the calibration done not more than 12 months (including tolerance report). The testing weight applied should be up to 60,000 kg for ground scale. The weighing scale with less capacity, e.g. up to 30,000 kg, may be considered if the operator has difficulty to test the scale up to 60,000 kg. For other type of scale, it would be subject to the decision of Marine Department. The proof should be issued by a Registered Professional Engineer (Mechanical or Marine and Naval Architecture discipline).
7. List out if any auxiliary mechanism such as side loader, reach stacker or derrick is required.

**Submission**

Please submit the application materials to the following address:

Marine Industrial Safety Section
Marine Department
Room 23/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central
Hong Kong

Any fraudulent or concealed reporting on the information of weighing scale with intention to obtain approval is an offence. Marine Department will initiate prosecution and revoke the approval once confirmed.

**Application Result**

The processing time depends on the circumstances of individual applications and the number of applications received at a particular time. Inspection on the weighing scale and relevant weighing records will be performed to ensure its normal operation.
XXX Weighing Services Limited

XXX 称重服務有限公司

Weighing Report

称重報告

Container number

貨櫃編號

Seal number

封條編號

The above container was weighed on (DD/MM/YYYY)

上述貨櫃稱於 (DD/MM/YYYY)

at address

在地址

by weighing equipment with Marine Department’s authorization number

以海事處認可之秤重設備完成秤重，秤重設備的設備編號為

The gross mass of the container weighed is

稱重的貨櫃總重量為

kg

Name and Signature of weighing equipment operating staff and company stamp

秤重設備操作員姓名、簽署及公司蓋章

(Name of Operating Staff)

操作員：“
Method 2

- Basing on the procedure approved by Marine Department, weighing all packages and cargo items, including pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container and adding the tare mass of the container to obtain the sum of all single masses.
### Container Mass Calculation Sheet (Method 2)

**Carrier (Shipping Line):** Space Container Line Limited  
**Container No.:** SPC11047010  
**Name of vessel:** Apollo 13  
**Voyage No.:** APO 025  
**Container type:** 20 ft 40-ft / 46-ft / flat rack / ISO tanker  
**Delivery date:** 04.07.2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Cargo</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit mass (kg)</th>
<th>Sub-total (kg)</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<td>Tare mass of container</td>
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**Total (Verified Gross Mass):** 25703

**No. of Seal:** SPC11304806

**Completed & signed by:** Lee Mei Nei /  
**Date:** 03.07.2016  
**Checked & signed by:** Chan Tai Man /  
**Date:** 03.07.2016
**Declaration**

**Shipper** shall declare the verified gross mass in the shipping document. The declaration may be submitted as

1. a part of the **shipping instruction**; or

2. an **independent** proof **document**.

The declaration shall be **signed by** the shipper’s **authorized person**. The signature may be in the form of electronic.
Transmission of Information

- Shipper shall submit the shipping document with verified gross mass used in the ship stowage plan sufficiently in advance to the carrier and the terminal (via carrier) by means of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or Electronic Data Processing (EDP) transmission or paper copy for the purpose of formulation of stowage plan.

- When the packed container reaches the terminal’s facilities, carrier shall inform the terminal the verified gross mass figure.

- If the shipper cannot provide the verified gross mass information upon a container’s arrival at the terminal, that container shall not be loaded onboard until verification of container mass is completed.
Shipper

**Declaration**

Carrier (Shipping Line)

**Verified Gross Mass**

Terminal (Person assigned to take charge of loading of cargo)

Filing of verification record/proof
Transshipment containers

- Transshipment container with declared verified gross mass does not require to re-verify its mass through weighing and re-declare subsequently.
Deviation in Gross Mass Figures

- VGM ≤ 10 MT: +/- 0.5 MT
  VGM > 10 MT: +/- 5%

- The VGM figures obtained from MD’s approved weighing equipment prevails.
Registration of Method 2 user

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<tr>
<th>Participant Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of User</td>
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<tr>
<th>Correspondence Address</th>
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<th>Fax Number</th>
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| Email Address           |  |

| Hong Kong Business Registration Certificate No. |  |
• Shipper provides

1. Business Registration Certificate (copy)
2. The procedure of Method 2 application (for vetting)
ABCDE Company Limited

Container Mass Verification by calculation

Document No.: ABC-01

1.0 Purpose
This document describes the process to verify the gross mass of a packed container via calculation (or "Method 2" as named in IMO's guideline).

2.0 Responsibility
Operation Team is responsible to stuff a container with cargo which is intended to be shipped overseas and obtain the verified gross mass of the container after packed.

3.0 Procedure
3.1 Operation staff obtains the weight of
   i) each cargo item to be packed in the container;
   ii) packing material used (quantity x unit mass),
   iii) packaging material used (quantity x unit mass),
   iv) securing material used (quantity x unit mass), and
   v) dunnage used (quantity x unit mass).

3.2 Operation staff enters above information in the Container Weight Calculation Sheet.

3.3 Operation staff enters the tare weight of the container in the Container Weight Calculation Sheet.

3.4 Operation staff sums up all individual weight figures to obtain the gross mass of the packed container which will be used as the Verified Gross Mass of the container for declaration.

3.5 Responsible operation staff to sign on the calculation sheet and file as record.

4.0 Reference
4.1 "Guidelines on the Verification of Gross Mass of a Container with Cargo Packed in Hong Kong" issued by Marine Department.
4.2 Guidance document "Verification of Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo by Method 2" issued by Marine Department.

5.0 Weighing Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighing range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weighing scale (electronic)</td>
<td>1000 kg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weighing scale (mechanical)</td>
<td>200 kg</td>
</tr>
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<td>1 lot</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Provided by “Forwarder A”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. **Tare mass of container**: 2300 kg

**No. of Seal:** SPC1046806

**Completed & signed by:** Lee Mei Neal / 
**Checked & signed by:** Chan Tai Man / 
**Date:** 03.07.2016
<table>
<thead>
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</table>

**Total (Verified Gross Mass):** 8703
• If the submission is found in order, MD shall issue a confirmation of registration together with the registration number to the shipper.

• MD has the right to inspect and witness shipper’s conduct of the procedure before granting the registration.
Which Method 2 user needs to register

- **Scenario 1:**

  - **Shipper:** Hong Kong registered company
  - **Container:** Packed and sealed in Hong Kong
  - **Method 2:** Procedure approved by MD
  - **Registration:** Yes
  - **Declaration:** Required format of Hong Kong
Which Method 2 user needs to register

- **Scenario 2:**
  (Land transport)

  - Shipper - Hong Kong registered company
  - Container - Packed and sealed in Mainland China
  - Method 2 - Adhere to the requirement of Mainland China
  - Registration - Yes
  - Declaration - Required format of Hong Kong
Which Method 2 user needs to register

- Scenario 3:  
  (Land transport)

  - Shipper - Non-HK registered company
  - Container - Packed and sealed in Mainland China
  - Method 2 - Adhere to the requirement of Mainland China
  - Registration - No
  - Declaration - Required format of Mainland China
Which Method 2 user needs to register

- **Scenario 4:**
  - **Shipper:** Non-HK registered company
  - **Container:** Packed and sealed in Hong Kong
  - **Method 2:** Procedure approved by MD
  - **Registration:** Yes
  - **Declaration:** Requirement format of Hong Kong
**Content of Declaration**

- Shipper’s declaration: the gross mass of the packed container declared in the shipping document was obtained in accordance with **Method 1** stipulated in SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2.

- Shipper’s declaration: the gross mass of packed container declared in the shipping document was obtained in accordance with **Method 2** stipulated in SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2. The procedure of this method has been approved or recognized by MD with registration number “GMV012345678”.
Signing of Declaration

- Shipper’s authorized
  - staff
  - representative (agent)

- Keeping of authorization document for inspection
MCC World International

Container Weight Declaration (CWD)

CONTAINER NUMBER

CONSIGNOR / SENDER (1)
Name, Address, & Phone Number Mandatory for Responsible Entity (s)

CONSIGNOR / RECEIVER (1)
Name, Address, & Phone Number Mandatory for Responsible Entity (s)

Status: Full Empty
ISO Code

Cargo Type: General Hazard Overweight Reefer

Container Type: 20’ 40’ 45’ 40’C Flat Rack ISO Tanker

Commodity: Mandatory

Weight: (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Type</th>
<th>Kgs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Container Tare Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contained &amp; Packaging Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Container &amp; Contents Gross Weight</td>
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</tbody>
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Method of Determining Weight (2)

1. Estimation
2. Weighing of Contents
3. Weighing of Container & Contents
4. Weighing of Truck & Container

Full Name & Signature of Person Making Declaration (Mandatory)

Full Name __________________________Signature: __________________________

Date: __________________________

Receiving Organisation Receipt:

Notes:
1. The "Responsible Entity(s)" is responsible for providing an accurate CWD. This is usually the person in Australia who engages the road carrier or offers the container for transport by road in Australia.
2. Departing the weight of the container and its contents ensures there is no confusion as to whether the declared weight is the net weight or gross weight.
3. This enables the person who is retiring on the CWO to determine its capacity.
4. COVD labels must be included in another document, e.g., the import delivery order (IDO), the Electronic Import Delivery Center (EIDC), or separate documents.
5. The contents of the COVD must be readily available to an authorized officer or police officer who seeks to ascertain its contents, there and then in the presence of the container (whether by examining documents located on or in the vehicle or by obtaining the information by radio or other means).

The Container Weight Declaration (CWD) is a statutory requirement for all container movements (full or empty) and should be received by MCC World International no later than the day prior to the scheduled movement.

MCC World International is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided on this container weight declaration (CWD).
# Container Mass Declaration

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<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Container No.</th>
<th>Verified Gross Mass, VGM (kg)</th>
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☐ The verified gross mass of the packed container(s) declared in this shipping document was obtained in accordance with Method 1 stipulated in SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2 by means of the approved weighing scales.

☐ The verified gross mass of the packed container(s) declared in this shipping document was obtained in accordance with Method 2 stipulated in SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2. The procedure of this method has been approved by Hong Kong Marine Department with registration number “GMV”.

(Select the appropriate statement by ticking in the respective box in the above.)

Declared by: __________________________ (print name), __________________________ (signature)

authorized by: __________________________ (Shipper company)

Date: _____________
Supervision of the execution of guideline

Marine Department may exercise the power to

(1) Enter the companies to check the documents or records confirming their compliance with either Method 1 or Method 2; and

(2) Weigh packed container by making use of weighing equipment if necessary.
New Requirement on the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo under SOLAS Chapter VI, Regulation 2

Introduction

The amendment to SOLAS Chapter VI, Regulation 2 regarding the verified gross mass of a container carrying cargo (packed container) was adopted at the 84th MSC session in November 2014 for entry into force globally on 1 July 2016.

This amendment requires mandatory verification of the gross mass of a container prior to loading on the vessels to which SOLAS Chapter VI applies. Although some exemptions are included (for roll-on/roll-off vessels amongst others), the vast majority of containers loaded for export will fall under this new regulation.

"Guidelines on the Verification of Gross Mass of a Container with Cargo Packed in Hong Kong" has been published and can be downloaded here.

The regulation provides 2 methods for verification of gross mass of a packed container.

Method 1

Upon the conclusion of packing and sealing a container, the shipper may arrange weighing of the packed container by using a weighing scale approved by Marine Department. The Master or his representative and the terminal operator shall be provided with the verified container’s gross mass figure used in the ship storage plan sufficiently in advance, in accordance with arrangements agreed among the carrier, shipper and terminal operator. For a container weighed by the approved weighing scale, the shipper requires to have a weighing document showing the weighing scale’s authorization number, the name of weighing scale operator, the date of weighing, the container number and the seal number with signature of the weighing scale operating staff and company stamp. The sample of weighing document is available here.

Please click here for the list of approved weighing scales.

For any local weighing scale operator who is interested in getting the authorization, please click here for the procedures of application. The application is free of charge. The approved weighing scale operator has to schedule an annual calibration within 12 months of the previous calibration. The calibration proof shall be issued by Registered Professional Engineer (Mechanical or Marine and Naval Architecture discipline).

Method 2

The shipper may weigh all the package and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, damage and other securing material to be packed in the container, and add the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single mass using a method certified by Marine Department. In other words, the shipper using this method for gross mass...
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Verification of Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo by Method 2

Prior to performing verification of gross mass of a container carrying cargo by Method 2, please ensure the submission of the relevant verification method to Marine Department. Such a method can only be adopted after receiving the letter of registration confirmation issued by this department.

1. Acquiring the Masses of the Cargoes to be Loaded into the Container
   The types of cargoes carried by containers are extensive. Generally they can be divided into two main categories as shown below.

1.1 Homogenous Cargoes
   Basically the shapes and masses of individual homogenous items are identical. For instance, the mass of every packed television set is 20 kg. If the shipper intends to load 100 numbers of television sets to a container, the gross mass of cargoes should be 20 kg x 100 numbers, which gives 2,000 kg.

   The shipper can rely on the mass information provided by the manufacturer or determine by weighing to obtain the masses of individual items.

1.2 Irregular Cargoes
   The common irregular cargoes include bulk commodities and liquids. Weighing the irregular cargoes by adopting Method 2 is almost the same as the practice for homogenous cargoes. However the masses of individual items would not be identical due to the irregular shape of those cargoes. The shipper shall therefore have to weigh every item or make use of the filling machine with mass measuring device. It is more appropriate to use Method 1 for such kind of cargoes (i.e. weighing the packed container by authorized weighing scale).
• Enquiry:

  Email – miss@mardep.gov.hk

  Telephone - 2852 4477

    2852 4474 (Wong)
Thank you
New Requirements:

1. Specified Person must verify the gross mass of the container (two methods);

2. Specified Person must ensure verify gross mass is stated in the shipping document;

3. Ship Master and terminal operator must not load a container on board without obtaining verified gross mass.
New Requirement 1:
Verifying the gross mass of container

Two methods:
1. Weighing the whole container using an accepted weighing equipment; or
2. Adding the weights of cargoes and others using an approved method.

With both above methods, the following authorities could “accept” and “approve”:
1. competent authority of the place at which the packing of the container was completed; or
2. Hong Kong Marine Department
New Requirement 2:
Stating the verified gross mass in shipping document

Requirements for shipping document:

1. Signed by the specified person (or someone authorized by him); and
2. deliver a copy in advance to the master of the ship or the master’s representative and the terminal operator for the preparation of the ship’s stowage plan.
New Requirement 3:
No container to be loaded on board without verified gross mass

Conditions for loading:

1. Verified gross mass is stated in the shipping document; or
2. Ship Master and terminal operator obtain verified gross mass (by other means).
Enforcement of the new legislation requirements

Hong Kong Marine Department:
1. To specify the specifications, standards or additional requirements by notice published in the Gazette. (e.g. details for “acceptance” and “approval”)
2. To inspect company for compliances;
3. To check container weight when deemed necessary.

Offence:
Same offence and penalty as the existing legislation.
Thank You