

VINCE.

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SOLAS – Container Weight Verification Requirement

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) 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. Effective July 1, 2016, all shippers MUST provide and certify the verified gross mass (VGM) of their cargo and/or loaded containers.

All shippers are required to submit a signed declaration form to V Opco, LLC's (formerly known as Vince, LLC) designated forwarder certifying the verified gross mass (VGM) **before** the VGM cut off. The declaration form must be signed by a person duly authorized by the shipper. The VGM should also be included on the shipping documents (commercial invoice and/or packing list).

The following are two permissible weighing methods for determining the VGM:

Method 1

Shipper arranges weighing of the loaded container by using a weighing scale approved by the Marine Department. It can be a weighbridge or weight in the terminal/port. Either one must be approved by the Marine Department at origin. The cost will be payable by the shipper.

Method 2

Shipper must weigh each item – including packaging, pallets, dunnage and other packaging and secure materials - going into the box, and add the tare mass of the container to get the verified gross mass of the packed container.

** If shipper wants to use method 2, shipper must be certified to do so by the Marine Department. Shipper will need to provide details of its weighing method for approval by Marine Department in the **registration process**.

For LCL, shippers are also required to provide the VGM to the respective forwarder within the forwarder's required deadline.

V Opco, LLC expects all its suppliers to comply with the new VGM regulation effective July 1, 2016. Any questions, please contact the designated forwarder's local office to get more information if there any other local requirements that may apply or you may contact me directly at lbassett@vince.com.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lucy Bassett

Lucy Bassett
Director of Logistics

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