

June 23, 2016

Dear Trade Partners and Association Members:

In November 2014, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted mandatory amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The SOLAS convention is applicable to global law and the amendment becomes effective July 1, 2016. The purpose of the SOLAS amendment is to ensure that the accurate gross weight of packed containers, also known as Verified Gross Mass (VGM), is obtained prior to the container being loading on board a ship. **ESTIMATES OF THE VGM ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE.**

Any and all costs pertaining or related to the VGM will be assigned or charged back by LCBO. The two acceptable methods for obtaining the VGM of a packed container are as follows:

1. Weigh the container after it has been packed using certified equipment; or
2. Weigh the cargo and all other contents such as pallets, dunnage and packing materials, also adding in the tare weight of the container itself.

Responsibilities for providing an accurate VGM are as follows:

- **Consolidations** (forwarder- loaded containers, i.e. EXC, FCA) - the **LCBO freight forwarder** is responsible for providing the VGM (verified gross mass) of these containers.
- **Full Containers** (supplier- loaded containers, i.e. FOB, Ex-works) - the **supplier** of the goods is responsible for providing the VGM of the container.

We ask that manufacturer's representatives and trade association leaders please share this information with the producers and suppliers you represent. The LCBO will post this letter on our "Doing Business with LCBO" trade resources website on the Web PO and Private Ordering sections.

Please remember that this law goes into effect **July 1, 2016**. Non-compliance may lead to supplier or forwarder charges, or chargebacks from LCBO.

Sincerely,



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