**FESCO Ocean Management Limited**

**3rd Floor, Hyper Tower, 11, Apostolou Andrea Street, Mesa Geitonia, 4007, Limassol, Cyprus**

 **Tel: (357) 2558 8488 Fax: (357) 2558 8489**



May 16th, 2016

**To our Customers**

**Effective July 1st 2016 - Verified Gross Mass (VGM) SOLAS Regulation**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted new regulations under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) that require shippers to provide the verified gross mass (VGM) for every packed container prior to stowage aboard ship. As from July 1st 2016 this regulation will be mandatory and in absence of the verified gross mass (VGM) it prohibits loading of a packed container onto a ship to which the SOLAS regulations apply.

The SOLAS amendments prescribes 2 methods by which shipper/customer may obtain the VGM of a packed container.

1. The shipper/customer may weigh the packed and sealed container using calibrated and certified equipment.
2. The shipper/customer may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material and add the tare weight of the utilized container. The method itself needs to be certified and approved by a national regulatory body.

An estimation of weight is not permitted.

**How to submit the VGM?** You can deliver the VGM information to FESCO in writing, added to the usual e-mail or fax messages or by using EDI, indicating the necessary data:

* VGM Weight
* VGM Method
* Who provided the weighing
* VGM Certificate Authorized Person/Who signed it

The VGM details need to be provided to the carrier sufficiently in advance of vessel loading, at least 24 hours prior to vessel ETA. A packed container, for which VGM has not been obtained will not be loaded onto a ship.

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The responsibility for obtaining and providing the verified gross mass lies with the shipper/customer. Any associated charges due to VGM related issues (including, but not limited to, weighing/ re-weighing/ re-certification, shifting within the terminal and/or cancellation charges), shall be on shipper’s/customer’s account.

Should you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

FESCO Ocean Management Limited