

HAFFA NEWS

To : All HAFFA Members
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~ News Extract ~

MARINE DEPARTMENT 海事處 (MD)

- *SOLAS Requirement on the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) of a Container Carrying Cargo*
- *Liability of Shipper / Forwarder in case the tare weight of the container is not accurate*

The VGM as per Method 2 includes the tare weight as taken from the plate / door side of the container. It is noted that container could increase in mass due to oxidation of metal or repair (proper and improper repair). On the other hand, a container could have reduced tare mass due to wastage. Given the tare weight is part of the weight that is required to be declared in the VGM under Method 2, the Shipper / Forwarder may become liable for the correctness of the tare weight as per SOLAS.

To clarify forwarders' liability under this situation, HAFFA made an enquiry with the MD and please find below their reply for Members' reference that is self-explanatory.

MD's reply

According to MD's guideline, the tare mass of container can be obtained from the door or the safety place of the container. If such is not available, it can also be provided by Carrier. If the incorrectness of the VGM declared is proven to be due to the excess deviation of the tare mass of container obtained in afore-mentioned means, Shipper (on the master bill) should not be liable for said incorrect VGM information.

For ease of reference, the above information has been placed under "INFO CENTRE">>"SEAFREIGHT" of the HAFFA website <http://www.haffa.com.hk> (<http://www.haffa.com.hk/portal/Page/Default.aspx?id=795>).

Meanwhile, Members are kindly reminded to visit the Marine Department website from time to time as the information (such as FAQ) will be updated frequently.

http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/miss_vgm.html

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