

February 2023

Verified Gross Mass (VGM)

Dear Valued Customers, as you are aware, Commonwealth legislation requires a Verified Gross Mass (VGM) be supplied before a container can be loaded onto a vessel. Under the legislation, the shipper must provide the gross mass as part of the cargo information. The shipper must also ensure that the gross mass of a cargo unit recorded on the shipping documents is accurate. The shipper must provide a VGM for both packed and empty containers.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is currently conducting compliance sampling of containers to verify that the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) requirements of *Marine Order 42 (Carriage, stowage and securing of cargoes and containers) 2016* ('MO42') are being met.

In turn we feel it timely to remind our valued customers of the requirements for complying with the legislation on VGM:

As you are no doubt aware, MO42 requires shippers to ensure that the actual gross mass of each container is in accordance with the gross mass declared in the cargo information supplied to the master of the vessel. Further, the legislation specifies two acceptable methods by which the gross mass of a container shall be verified by the shipper:

Method 1: Weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment; or

Method 2: Weighing all packages and cargo items (including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container) and adding the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses.

Both weighing methods require use of calibrated and certified equipment complying with section 10(3) of MO42 (see attached guidance sheet).

AMSA is aware of occasional discrepancies between the declared weight (VGM) and that measured at points in the supply chain to the vessel, and AMSA may follow up on these matters when discrepancies are noted.

Please be reminded of the need to be aware of the following points:

- 1. Which method of verification/weighing was used for their containers.**
- 2. Evidence that the equipment in use is certified and calibrated as required.**
- 3. Confirmation of meeting requirements of relevant legislation.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your ONE representative.

Yours faithfully,
Ocean Network Express (Australia) Pty Ltd

Head Office

Suite 2 Level1, 100
Pacific Highway, North
Sydney NSW, 2060

02 9056 9900

Melbourne

Level 4. 06, 210
Kingsway, South
Melbourne, VIC 3205

03 9068 0900

Brisbane

Suite 4.01, Level 4/15
Astor Terrace, Spring
Hill, Brisbane QLD 4000

07 3186 2100

Adelaide

25 Aberdeen Street, Port
Adelaide, SA 5015

08 8119 0900

Fremantle

Suite 6 Level 1, 1 High
Street, Fremantle,
WA 6160

08 6223 0620