



Clarity and Reconsiderations as SOLAS VGM Deadline Draws Closer

There is less than one month until the International Maritime Organization (IMO) implements the Verification of Gross Mass (VGM) Ruling for 162 Member States around the world. [A memo issued on May 23](#) by the IMO gave three months' leeway to shippers, carriers and terminals to implement standard operating procedures in compliance with cargo VGM policies.

The new amendment does not delay the VGM policies, but instead urges authorities to enforce them in a "practical and pragmatic" manner for these first three months. A pressing issue concerning shippers has also been resolved with the memo: cargo to be loaded onto ships before July 1st, the date of implementation, and transshipped to the final port of discharge will not require VGM.

Many ports are revisiting the idea of offering weight services in their container yards. In Russia, Global Ports Investments PLC has recently [completed equipping its terminals and facilities](#), and modified its operating procedures to electronically verify and issue VGM certificates to

cargo owners. Singapore's terminal operator PSA International [reports that its terminal facilities will comply with VGM guidelines](#), adding that "most PSA terminals will be ready to provide a weighing service to determine VGM upon request."

[The World Shipping Council has created a resource](#) to identify implementation policies in specific regions for SOLAS VGM.



For pressing inquiries and updates, please reach your local KWE branch for information.