



As the July 1st deadline for the Verified Gross Mass implementation draws closer, some member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have yet to take decisive action and draw up definitive guidelines for port terminal authorities, shippers, and carriers. The Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents (FNASBA) recently released the details to a [2016 follow-up survey](#) on member state VGM policies, fielding responses from brokers and agents in over 40 countries. The association found that more than 18 countries have had no regulations set in place for VGM.

Meanwhile, the US container ports are divided on how best to approach VGM. South Carolina's Charleston Port Authority announced early on that it would weigh shipments and provide VGM on behalf of the shippers. The Port Authority of Virginia [updated its February announcement on April 6th](#) that it will not weigh containers at the terminal "regardless of conveyance," and that it will only accept VGM electronically via EDI from July 1st onwards. 13 major ports of the West Coast MTO Agreement have [unanimously declined to offer weighing services](#), and Georgia Port Authority's head (who will be stepping down June 30) has publicly stated that the responsibility to [provide VGM lies squarely on shippers](#).

Pressed for greater detail in February, the US Coast Guard has clarified that it [will enforce the SOLAS VGM regulations](#) for foreign-flagged ships, and it has no authority over domestic shippers. The Coast Guard and Maritime subcommittee of the US House of Representatives on Transportation & Infrastructure heard testimonies on SOLAS VGM on April 14th.

On April 4th, the KWE USA Ocean Export Team released an official statement underlining our policies and procedures for SOLAS Verified Gross Mass (VGM), set to go into effect on July 1st. The statement also includes a form that KWE USA customers can use to fill out and transmit to our KWE USA Ocean Export teams. [You can download a copy of the form here](#).

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

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