

New SOLAS Regulation Requirements impacting international shipments

Effective July 1, 2016, all international shippers must supply a verified gross weight of any consignment being loaded on to a container vessel. This new regulation includes all household goods consignments and commercial cargo. The regulation is a component of the International Convention known as SOLAS (Safety of Life At Sea) and is being implemented globally.

The implementation and management of this new regulation is driven by the U.S. Coast Guard, which published guidance related to the regulation at <http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/03/02/322016-solas-amendments-to-container-weight-requirements-new-faqs-published/>.



Although previously obliged to supply a weight for each container and its contents, it was acceptable to use an industry agreed standard to determine the weight of the goods being shipped. This is no longer sufficient or acceptable.

All companies and individuals shipping household goods must provide a certified gross weight for each container and its contents obtained from inspected and calibrated weighing stations. This information is passed via the port authorities and the various agencies involved in managing the loading of containers to the shipping lines.

Unfortunately, this additional requirement for exporting household goods internationally can cause increased or delayed shipping times and additional management costs. The new regulation instructs that consignments should not be loaded onto a ship unless the verified actual gross mass has been provided.

The specific processes for weighing containers and presenting documentation are still being finalized by authorities. UniGroup Worldwide Moving intends to establish its own operational and administrative solutions to minimize disruption and costs for this complex operational requirement.

Further information will be made available as the deadline approaches. For any immediate questions, please contact your UniGroup Worldwide Moving account representative or email services@unigroupworldwide.com.

This communication contains a general description of recent SOLAS regulation developments and does not constitute business or legal advice by UniGroup Worldwide Moving. You should consult with your own business and legal advisors with regard to the matters which are described above.