



PIL (Kenya) Limited

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR CONTAINER WEIGHT VERIFICATION

VERIFIED GROSS MASS (VGM) REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the coming into effect on 1st of July 2016 of amendments to the Safety of Life at Seas (SOLAS) Convention that require all cargo/containers loaded for shipment to have a Verified Gross Mass , KPA & KMA have come up with standard operating procedures to enable all exports from Mombasa to be weighed and a certified VGM declared.

There are 2 methods through which this can be done:

Method 1

1. Upon the conclusion of packing and sealing a container, the shipper may weigh it using calibrated and certified equipment.
2. In Kenya, the Weights and Measures Department is responsible for certifying weighing equipment.
3. Shippers using method 1 are not required to be registered by the Kenya Maritime Authority, however shippers must be able, upon request by the KMA or other body, to provide both of the following:
 - I. Evidence that the weighing equipment has been supplied/maintained for the purpose of determining the VGM of a loaded container and is capable of producing a 'ticket' (physical or electronic record). Each 'ticket' must include the container number, the VGM of the container, and be supported by procedures for, and records of, any calculations which have been made. If this information is produced as an electronic record, it is essential itemized records are able to be provided for audit purposes without delay and able to be produced as a paper document, if requested.
 - II. Records kept of maintenance and verification (calibration) procedures, including any corrective / remedial actions taken.



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Method 2

1. Method 2 allows the individual weighing of 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, to determine the gross mass of the packed container using a certified method.
2. The method used for weighing the container's contents under Method 2 is subject to certification and approval by Kenya Maritime Authority. Shippers using method 2 are required to be registered with the Kenya Maritime Authority.
3. The weighing equipment used to verify the weights of individual packages, dunnage, lashing materials and pallets by the shipper or the third party must have a valid calibration certificate issued by an accredited organization, in Kenya, the weights and measure Department.

For certain types of cargo items (e.g. scrap metal, un-bagged grain and other cargo in bulk) where individual weighing of the items to be packed in the container is impractical and usage of method 2 is inappropriate, method 1 shall be used.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- A) This exercise comes into effect from 1st July 2016, globally.
- B) The VGM of each individual container will have to be declared to KPA through their KWATOS portal during export pre-advise.
- C) The VGM of each individual container has to be declared to the shipping line during the shipping order handing over process.
- D) No container will be allowed entry into port and loading on vessel if no VGM certification is declared.
- E) KPA has installed weighing equipment in their export handling process and random weighing will be done to re-confirm the declared VGM.
- F) Containers found with a variance of +/- 5% from the declared VGM will be rejected for shipment and will need to be withdrawn from port for re-packing and re-weighing
- G) KMA has already advertised invitation for shippers to apply for Method 2 registration to be certified for weighing. **(see their website www.kma.go.ke)**
- H) We request all our shippers to re-assess their cargo weighing procedures, register with KMA if they intend to use METHOD 2 and ensure all their weight declarations are VGM compliant.
- I) We remain available for any further clarification and assistance you may require on this new procedure.

Yours truly,


I V Sivakumar
Assistant General Manager

