

SOLAS/VGM Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is VGM?

A: VGM stands for Verified Gross Mass and refers to the overall weight of a container which has been obtained using one of two official methods.

Q: How can the VGM weight be provided to the port?

A: VGM can be provided by:

1. Submitting Pre-Advice via the PortConnect website
2. Submitting B2B pre-Advice via PortConnect
3. Providing a carters note, along with a VGM Declaration to the road or rail office at the port (there is a charge for this)

Q: Who is responsible for providing the VGM?

A: It is the legal responsibility of the shipper to provide the VGM.

Q: Can I change the VGM after I've submitted Pre-advice via PortConnect?

A: Yes, you can change the VGM, and any other details, as long as it is done PRIOR to Gate-in

Q: Do I have to pre-advise if my container is coming in by Rail?

A: Yes. Containers arriving by Rail that do not have a VGM will not be unloaded.

Q: What information will be required if I ask the port to enter the VGM – at road or rail?

A: There is a template form on POAL website [here](#) – it can be presented at the road office or emailed to driversassist@poal.co.nz or emailed to the rail office mailr@poal.co.nz

Q: Can I change the VGM after gate-in?

A: No. However, if you have an issue, email Customer Service for assistance.

Q: Do you require a VGM on MT containers for storage? A:

No.

Q: Do you require a VGM on MT containers for a vessel?

A: No. Just enter the tare weight of the container in PortConnect Pre-advice where the VGM is required.

Q: How are Empty Hazardous Containers treated for VGM?

A: Empty containers and Tanktainers that have to be declared as Hazardous due to Hazardous residue are required to be treated as full containers and will require a VGM

Q: What if my container is a 24 hour DG container?

A: Pre-advice with VGM should be submitted prior to gate-in.

Q: What if my container is a Direct to Vessel container?

A: Pre-advice including VGM must be submitted prior to gate in. These are by special arrangement. Contact Customer Services for information.

Q: Do containers going to NZ coastal destinations need a VGM

A: Yes

Q: Will the port or the shipping line check the weight provided?

A: No

Q: Will POAL weigh containers at the port?

A: No

Q: Where can I get my container weighed?

A: Some trucking companies are providing a service for their customers NEXUS Logistics is providing a service at the Wiri Intermodal Freight hub for their customers Contact MOT for a list of certified weighbridge facilities

Q: Will import container weights all be displayed on the POAL website

A: There will be transition times during which containers that have been loaded at overseas ports prior to 1 July 2016 would not have required the VGM. After this time, we can assume the weights provided in the information we receive will be VGM weights.

Q: What happens to containers that are packed on the wharf?

A: The stevedores packing for you will need to advise POAL of the VGM. Once packed, containers will be deemed to be received as if they came in from outside the port gate.

Q: What is the charge for having Pre-advice with VGM entered at the Fergusson Terminal?

A: \$47.98 per container + GST which will include the old Pre-advice fee + the Change of Status (VGM) fee – this will apply for Road or Rail

Q: What is the charge for having Pre-advice with VGM entered at the Multi-Cargo?

A: \$27.76 per container. There is no charge for entering Pre-advice but the Change of Status (VGM) fee will apply for adding the VGM

There is clear and detailed information on the Maritime NZ website here:

<http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Commercial/Shipping-safety/cargo/container-weight.asp>