

საქართველოს  
ეკონომიკისა და მდგრადი  
განვითარების სამინისტრო



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

სსიპ საზღვაო ტრანსპორტის  
სააგენტო

LEPL MARITIME TRANSPORT  
AGENCY



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**6/CIRC/MTA**

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TO: SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, PORT MANAGERS AND  
SHIPPERS

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS), 1974.

The purpose of this Circular is to provide information and guidance to the shipowners, operators, port managers and shippers, concerning amendments of the SOLAS, 1974, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee which, at its ninety-fourth session (17 to 21 November, 2014), through resolution MSC.380(94), were accepted on 1 January 2016. The aforementioned amendments will enter into force on July 1 2016.

The amendments to SOLAS regulation VI/2, as set out in the annex to resolution MSC.380(94), introduce two main requirements:

The shipper is responsible for providing the verified weight by stating it in the shipping document and submitting it to the master or his representative and to the terminal representative sufficiently in advance to be used in the preparation of the ship stowage plan; and

The verified gross mass is a condition for loading a packed container onto a ship.

The verification of the gross mass of a packed container may be achieved by either of two methods:

Weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment; or

Weighing all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container to the sum of the single masses, using a certified method approved by the competent authority of the State in which packing of the container was completed.

The aforementioned regulation does not apply to:

A packed container on a chassis or trailer to be driven on a ro-ro ship which is engaged on short international voyages;

Cargo items tendered by a shipper to the master for packing into a container already on board the ship;

“offshore containers” to which the CSC, according to the Guideline for the approval of offshore containers handled in open seas (MSC/Circ.860) and the revised recommendations on harmonized interpretation and implementation of the international Convention for the Safe Containers, 1972, as amended (CSC.1/Circ.138/Rev.1).

In accordance with new paragraph 6 of SOLAS regulation VI/2, if the shipping document, with regard to a packed container, does not provide the verified gross mass and the master or his representative and the terminal representative have not obtained the verified gross mass of the packed container, it shall not be loaded on to the ship.

The shipper may not re-verify container weight additionally in the case it is weighted in Georgia by the competent authorities of Georgia (for ex: Competent entities under the Ministry of Finance of Georgia).

In the case the container is not weighted and verified in Georgia, it shall be weighted prior to loading onto a ship by using calibrated and certified equipment in accordance with the Georgian legislation. A certificate of weight verification issued by the certified and calibrated equipment, shall be deemed sufficient for verifying gross mass of a container.

The Maritime Safety Committee also approved the Guidelines regarding the verified gross mass of a container carrying cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475), with a view to establishing a common approach for the implementation of the SOLAS requirements regarding the verification of the gross mass of packed containers.

You are kindly requested to refer to enclosed Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475).

Yours truly,

Director



Mamuka Akhaladze