



July 7, 2016

VGM Update Long Beach and Oakland

Polynesia Line place great importance on all safety aspects in regard to the carriage of containers/cargo on our vessels. Focusing on this particular subject, you will be aware that the IMO-AMSA will be enforcing the SOLAS/VGM container weight declaration regulations which came into effect on the 1st July, 2016.

The U.S. Coast Guard in its Maritime Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 009/016 announced that the Marine Terminal Operators' (MTO) weighing equipment may be used to determine the verified gross weight and that this weight information can be used to comply with SOLAS requirements.

SSA terminals in Long Beach and Oakland both weigh all containers upon arrival and will supply the VGM data to Polynesia Line and Polynesia Line will submit the VGM to the vessel operator.

By making use of the terminal weighing approach the shipper is deemed to have appointed the Marine Terminal Operator to weigh the container and to provide the gross mass to Polynesia Line as a VGM equivalent on shippers' behalf.

The shipper does not have to appoint the MTO as their Agent and nor do they have to provide a separate VGM certificate however if they prefer, the Shipper may choose to use Method 1 or 2 as outlined in the SOLAS regulation and submit this directly to the Carrier.

Further information on both SOLAS and US Coast Guard ruling is available at:

- www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/009_16_4-28-2016.pdf
- www.ocema.org/VGM_SOLAS.html

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