



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 19 August 2015

Marine Notice No. 16 of 2015

Method 2: Verification of the Gross Mass of a Packed Container

TO MASTERS OF ALL SHIPS IN SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS, SHIP OPERATORS, OWNERS, MANAGERS AND SHIP'S AGENTS, PORT AUTHORITIES, TERMINAL OPERATORS, STEVEDORE COMPANIES AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Summary

This marine notice advises the maritime industry of SAMSA's intention to appoint service providers to verify the gross mass of a packed container using Method 2 as detailed in the IMO Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of Container Carrying Cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475)

1. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), as amended, chapter VI, part A, regulation 2 requires that a packed containers' gross mass is verified prior to stowage aboard ship. The shipper is responsible for ensuring this.
2. The IMO Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of Container Carrying Cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475) details two methods for calculating the verified gross mass of a packed container i.e.

Method 1: Upon the conclusion of packing and sealing a container, the shipper may weigh or have arranged that a third party weighs, the packed container.

Method 2: The shipper may weigh all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing material to be packed in the container, and add the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses using a certified method.

3. The method used for weighing the container's contents under method 2, is subject to certification and approval as determined by the competent authority of the State in which the packing and sealing of the container was completed.
4. SAMSA is the competent authority responsible for certifying and approving the method used for weighing the container's contents under method 2.
5. SAMSA intend to authorise external service providers to facilitate this requirement in terms of the IMO Code for Recognised Organisations.

6. Parties interested in becoming Recognised Organisations to certify and approve shippers / exporters methods for verifying the gross mass of a packed container using Method 2 are invited to apply to SAMSA for accreditation / approval.
7. Copies of the IMO Code for Recognised Organised Organisations can be obtained from Mrs Kirsty Goodwin, SAMSA Durban Office.

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