



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 26 November 2015

Marine Notice No. 25 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

Marine Notice No 16 of 2015 is cancelled

Summary

This marine notice advises the maritime industry of SAMSA's intention to appoint third parties to verify the gross mass of a packed container using Method No. 2 as detailed in the IMO Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a 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 the containers stowage aboard ship. The shipper is responsible for ensuring this.
2. The IMO Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a 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 third parties to facilitate this certification requirement in terms of Section 5 of the South African Maritime Safety Authority Act, 1998.

6. Parties interested in becoming SAMSA approved third parties are to complete the annexed checklist and provide the requested information and or documentation.

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Are you aware of what SAMSA Regulations Require of You?



Method 2: The Verification of the Gross Mass of a Packed Container SAMSA Appointment of a Third Party

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 onboard.

In terms of Section 5 of the SAMSA Act, 1998, SAMSA will appoint third parties to verify the gross mass of a packed container, using Method 2, as detailed in the IMO Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475)

The applicant is to ensure that a completed application is submitted for approval. To assist applicants, the following checklist has been compiled. All specified information and documentation is to be provided with the application. Please note that the checklist is for guidance purposes only and additional information may be required, as necessary.

A completed form from the applicant or their representative is required before the assessment is conducted. Failure to provide this will result in the termination of the assessment.

Declaration by company's representative:

I the responsible person representing (name of company) _____
have read and completed this checklist in preparation for the company's assessment as a SAMSA appointed third party. The content of the declaration is true and correct in all respects to the best of my belief.

Signature _____ **Date** _____
Name _____ **Position** _____

Checklist: SAMSA appointment of a Third Party to Verify the Gross Mass of a Packed Container Using Method 2

1. Documentation

Check	Item	Notes
	Letter Of Application	Check that the information on the letter of application reflects the Approval that is being applied for, is correct for name and address of applicant
	Mandate	Scope of work Type of Cargo
	Inspectors	The name of the Inspector conducting the approvals along with their qualifications and experience is to accompany the application. Information to be submitted: ID CV training certificates
	Shipper application procedure	The procedure by which a shipper applies for approval / certification by the SAMSA appointed third party.
	Inspection and assessment procedure	A detailed procedure for the assessment of the shipper / exporter is to accompany the application.
	Offices / Premises	Physical address of offices / premises.
	Quality Assurance System	Details of the quality assurance program in place. At a minimum it shall contain document and certification control. Records are to be kept for a minimum of seven years. The above procedures can be included in the QM system. The document control system, if electronic, shall have a hard copy back-up and a copy thereof shall be kept on another site apart from the applicants premises. The QMS shall contain a declaration that any changes to procedures and Inspectors are to be advised to SAMSA immediately.
	Certification	<p>The certificate issued to the shipper / exporter after the successful assessment of their quality management system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the shipper / exporter; • A declaration by the Inspector that the shipper / exporter has obtained approval for the procedure to verify the gross mass of a packed container in terms of Method 2 of SOLAS requirements. • The name and signature of the Inspector; • The signature of the shipper / exporter; • The date of approval • Expiry date of approval • SAMSA generated accreditation number • Address of shipper / exporter <p>SAMSA format to be utilised</p>

2. Inspection of Facilities

Check	Item	Notes
	Facilities	Offices Equipment / Transport Technical Reference Material
	Documents	Checklists for assessments An inspection of record keeping processes
	Inspectors	Interviews with the Inspectors who will be conducting the approvals

3. SAMSA Approval of a Third Party

1. To assess and inspect the company's application and premises will result in a pro rata charge of R820.00 per hour or as per the SAMSA Determination of Charges, as amended.
2. The company will be expected to enter into a service level agreement with SAMSA.
3. SAMSA reserves the right to conduct ad hoc inspections and or audits on approved third parties to ensure a continued high standard of work is maintained and withdraw approval at any time in the event of non-conformity.
4. Qualifications of inspectors should include:
 - a. Relevant industry experience with respect to packing and sealing containers
 - b. Knowledge and understanding of shipping documentation requirements
 - c. Knowledge of and ability to audit quality management systems
5. **Applications to be sent to Mrs Kirsty Goodwin.**
Email: kgoodwin@samsa.org.za
Tel no.: 031 307 3006

4. Approved Shippers

SAMSA appointed third parties on the successful completion of an assessment of a shipper, must obtain from SAMSA, an accreditation number that will be recorded on the certificate of approval. The shipper will be entered into the SAMSA Database of Approved Shippers.