



Ports America Chesapeake VGM Policy

Ports America Chesapeake has filed a rule in our Baltimore Maritime Tariff Agreement (BMTA) outlining the process for SOLAS / VGM regulations at the Port of Baltimore.

Ports America Chesapeake will continue to weigh all export containers received at its Port of Baltimore Terminal gates. These weights will be provided directly to the ocean carriers.

The United States Coast Guard has declared that weights obtained through this procedure are equivalent to the Verified Gross Mass (VGM) required by SOLAS.

The United States Coast Guard issued a Declaration of Equivalency to Regulation VI/2 of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) which stated that existing U.S. laws and regulations for providing verified container weights are equivalent to the requirements of SOLAS Regulation VI/2.

Effective July 1, 2016, by shipping containerized cargo through Ports America Chesapeake's terminals, shippers authorize use of these gate weights to satisfy their VGM obligations. In addition shippers may also choose to provide the VGM directly to their ocean carriers. This weight will be used as a VGM, and the container will be loaded on the vessel unless otherwise instructed by the Carrier outside of this process.

Ports America Chesapeake will provide EDI 322 messages for all export loads to include the VGM qualifier. Ports America Chesapeake will not require ocean carriers to provide VGM weights.