

## VERIFIED GROSS MASS Q&A

### Who is responsible for submitting the VGM to NileDutch?

The shipper is responsible for the verification of the gross mass of a container as well as for ensuring that the VGM is communicated to the carrier.

The carrier is not obliged to cross-check the VGM received. Independent of the party verifying and sending the VGM, it remains the responsibility of the shipper that the carrier and terminal operator receive the information in time.

### Is there any exception to the above?

No, the shipper always remains responsible to ensure the carrier and the terminal operator receive the information in time. However, the actual verification and sending can be done by a third party contracted by the shipper, including the carrier or the terminal operator itself.

### How can the VGM be submitted to NileDutch?

NileDutch is aiming for an easy submission of the VGM for our customers. The shipper can submit the VGM to NileDutch through:

- a) INTTRA
- b) VGM dedicated field in Shipping instruction (if received before VGM submission deadline)
- c) [NileDutch VGM submission template](#) (Excel) via email
- d) Deliver separate physical document

NileDutch would like to point out the benefit of using INTTRA or other electronic means for VGM submission. More info can be found here: <http://www.intra.com/en/evgm-solutions>.

### What information needs to be shared exactly with NileDutch?

The minimum information that should be delivered to your local agent per container consists of the:

- VGM (kg)
- VGM responsible party
  - Person that has signed the VGM submission (with signature or full name in capitals) on behalf of the shipper.

### What is the deadline to submit the VGM?

The VGM must be available sufficiently in advance to be used by the vessel planner, ship's master or and the terminal representative to prepare the vessel's stowage plan. For NileDutch this deadline will generally fall 24 hours before vessel arrival, but may vary depending on the arrival time of the vessel and other factors.

You can contact your local Niledutch Agent for more detailed info on specific vessels.

### Should NileDutch verify the VGM communicated by customers?

There is no requirement that the carrier or terminal operator weigh a packed container for which the shipper has already provided the verified gross mass.

If, however, the packed container is weighed, for whatever reason, and the gross mass is different from that provided by the shipper by an amount deemed to be material, then the carrier and terminal operator will need to have a process for determining which value to use.

**NileDutch**

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### What if the VGM exceeds the maximum payload?

Containers exceeding the maximum payload indicated on the Safety Approval Plate (CSC) may not be loaded onto the vessel.

### What are the consequences or penalties when a VGM is not available?

It should be noted that SOLAS imposes an obligation on the carrier and the terminal operator not to load a packed container aboard ship for which no verified gross mass has been provided or obtained.

Compliance with this obligation by the carrier and terminal operator may result in commercial and operational penalties, such as delayed shipment and additional costs if the shipper has not provided the verified gross mass for the packed container.

Penalties will be defined by the individual national legislations.

### Is weighing in a transshipment port necessary?

All packed containers discharged from a SOLAS vessel in the transshipment port should already have a VGM and therefore further weighing in the transshipment port facility is not required.

Back to ['Verified Gross Mass'](#)

Click here to get a [brief overview of VGM in NileDutch](#).

Click here to download the ['NileDutch VGM submission template'](#).

Click here to download the ['Industries frequently asked questions'](#).

Click here to [contact us](#) in case of questions.