

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



## Update on SOLAS Amendments – Verified Gross Mass of Containers & Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces

Ref. 007-16  
Issued 06/06/16

[TAN 005-16](#) refers to forthcoming amendments to SOLAS which are effective from 1 July 2016. The purpose of this TAN is to provide relevant parties with an update on these matters shortly before their entry into force.

### **Requirement for Verified Gross Mass of Shipping Containers (SOLAS VI/2.4-6)**

MSC Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1548](#) has been published to address practical aspects of compliance with the new regulations, in particular, relating to transhipped containers and communication of verified gross mass information, for an initial period following their entry into force.

The circular letter urges Administrations and port State control authorities to adopt a practical and pragmatic approach when verifying compliance with the requirements of SOLAS regulations VI/2.4 to VI/2.6, for a period of three months after 1 July 2016, with a view to:

- 1) Permitting packed containers that are loaded on a ship before 1 July 2016 and are transhipped on or after 1 July 2016 to be shipped to their final port of discharge without the VGM specified in SOLAS regulations VI/2.4 to VI/2.6.
- 2) Providing flexibility to all the stakeholders in containerized transport to refine, if necessary, procedures for documenting, communicating and sharing VGM information.

### **Revised Regulations for Entering Enclosed Spaces (SOLAS XI-1/7)**

The Ship Registry wishes to clarify our interpretation of SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, in particular regarding the new requirement to provide suitable means for the calibration of instruments required under the new regulation.

#### Ships normally operating on short sea voyages

Compliance with regulation XI-1/7 may be achieved by any of the following, or other suitable means acceptable to the Administration:



- Carrying means of calibration on board the vessel, and providing crew with sufficient training to calibrate the instrument on board;
- Calibration to be performed by shore based staff whilst the ship is in port; or
- A 'rotational' system whereby an instrument is taken ashore for calibration, to be replaced by another recently calibrated instrument.

#### Ships normally operating on deep sea voyages

Compliance with regulation XI-1/7 may be achieved by the following, or other suitable means acceptable to the Administration:

- Carrying means of calibration for the instrument on board the ship and providing crew with sufficient training to calibrate the instrument on board.

#### All Ships

In all cases, regular calibration of the instruments must be undertaken and the manufacturer's instructions for the calibration of instruments must be adhered to. We recommend researching these calibration instructions prior to purchasing the instrument to ensure compliance is possible.

*Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.*

