

## VGM Notice to shippers and shipping lines

Port Otago has been working towards providing a simple and consistent process for managing the requirements of the up-coming Verified Gross Mass (VGM) regulation.

The following points provide clarity as to how the new VGM rule is incorporated into Port Otago operations;

1. The shipper is responsible for providing the VGM.
2. Cargo cutoff times remain the same.
3. All export bound containers from road, rail or coastal transshipment vessel must have the VGM information made available during Prenoting, before they are received on to the Port Otago Container Terminal. No VGM, no entry.
4. Port Otago provides users of Jade Thin Client the functionality to mark the VGM status at Prenote data entry. For those that do not have Jade Thin Client access, a Secure Web portal service will be available at [www.portotago.co.nz](http://www.portotago.co.nz) via the Master Terminal Web Portal.    
Being a secure site, clients must have an ID/ password. Contact   
[customerservices@portotago.co.nz](mailto:customerservices@portotago.co.nz) (Web site Prenote -VGM fields updated 17th June 2016).  
**VGM Fields required;**(1)Is Weight Certified,(2)Weight Certified by, and (3)Authorised Person for Certified Weight  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> method currently being developed is to have a CSV. File format available at [www.portotago.co.nz](http://www.portotago.co.nz) which can be populated and sent to Port Otago via email to pre-note containers complete with VGM data in a single step (this will not be available until post July 1).
5. Once the container is gated in by the terminal the VGM information will be sent via standard CODECO EDI messaging to the corresponding Shipping Line
6. At the same time, a new VERMAS EDI message will be created and sent to Shipping Lines in a standardised format for verification purposes.
7. Port Otago does not intend to provide a container weighing service to shippers who pack off-wharf
8. Port Otago will provide a weighing service for containers packed onsite at Port Otago.
9. Port Otago will be amending their Standard Terms & Conditions to provide that the shipper, by ticking the pre-advice box, certifies that the weight is a Verified Gross Mass weight or VGM, and is calculated in accordance with either Method 1 or Method 2, and that the person is a deemed “authorised signatory” of the shipper for the purposes of responsibility under the new SOLAS protocols and the Maritime New Zealand Rule 24B – Carriage of Cargo.

The legislation takes effect from 1 July 2016, however changes in process to ensure compliance must be operating by 17 June at the latest. This is to ensure vessels transiting during that period are not held up due to No VGM information, if loading is delayed beyond 1 July.