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Circular Letter No.3664
11 July 2016

To: IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ecuador**

On 29 June 2016, the Embassy of Ecuador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland forwarded the attached communication which it has requested be circulated by the Organization.

Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Permanent Mission to the International
Organizations with Headquarters in London

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Human Mobility

4-7-23/2016

The Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Permanent Mission to the International Organizations with Headquarters in London presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and hereby forwards official letter No. MTOP-SPTM-16-664-OF of 28 June 2016 in order to inform the international maritime community of the decisions taken by Ecuador regarding the forthcoming entry into force of the SOLAS amendment on the verified gross mass.

The Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Permanent Mission to the International Organizations with Headquarters in London takes this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of its highest consideration to the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

London, 29 June 2016

[Official stamp and signature]

To the
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
London

Ministry of Transport and
Public Works

**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
UNDERSECRETARY FOR PORTS AND MARITIME AND INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

Official Letter No. MTOP-SPTM-16-664-OF

Guayaquil, 28 June 2016

His Excellency
Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION – IMO
In his Office

Your Excellency

It is an honour to address Your Excellency with reference to the amendment of [SOLAS] Chapter VI/2, which was adopted at the 94th session of the Maritime Safety Committee by resolution MSC.380 (94) and accepted on 1 January 2016, and is due to enter into force on 1 July 2016.

In accordance with the above, the Government of Ecuador wishes to report that the serious consequences of the earthquake of 16 April 2016, in which many lives and property were lost, caused economic and social collapse in the country, resulting in a rise in VAT and unemployment in the disaster areas and a fall in exports and the price of oil. This situation led the Central Government and its departments and ministries to change their priorities. As a result of those changes, the focus switched to the priority needs of the people and to the recovery of the disaster areas, thus preventing exporters from immediately fulfilling their international obligation.

In light of the above, and taking into consideration that MSC.1-Circ.1548 allows Member States a period of three months to adopt a practical approach when implementing the amendment, Ecuador will comply with the requirement on the verification of the gross mass (VGM) from 1 October 2016.

The Government of Ecuador would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official IMO document to bring it to the notice of the international maritime community, especially shipping companies, and thus avoid potential problems from arising when loading our cargoes.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Electronically signed document

Tania Castro Ruiz
UNDERSECRETARY FOR PORTS AND MARITIME AND INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

CC:

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Ministry of Transport and
Public Works

**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
UNDERSECRETARY FOR PORTS AND MARITIME AND INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT**

Official Letter No. MTOP-SPTM-16-664-OF

Guayaquil, 28 June 2016

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