



January 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Parties Should Begin Preparing Now For Container Weight Verification Requirements That Take Effect July 1, 2016

At the end of 2014, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) that will require every packed export container to have a verified container weight as a condition for loading aboard a vessel. This requirement will become legally binding on July 1, 2016.

All parties involved in the international transportation of maritime containers – including shippers, freight forwarders, packers, NVOCCs, carriers, and marine terminal operators – will need to take measures to ensure that they are prepared to fulfill the new SOLAS regulatory requirement before the implementation date arrives. There currently is more than a year to get ready. That time should not be wasted. All parties should use the time that is available to understand what will be required of them, and to prepare to be able to meet those requirements before July 1, 2016.

In order to help promote an understanding of these SOLAS amendments, the World Shipping Council has released a three page synopsis of what the SOLAS requirement contains. That synopsis, along with the text of the SOLAS requirements, can be found on the WSC website at: <http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

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ABOUT THE WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL (WSC): The World Shipping Council is an association of liner shipping companies with offices in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Its members operate approximately 90 percent of the global liner ship capacity, providing approximately 400 regularly scheduled services linking the continents of the world. Collectively, these services transport about 60 percent of the value of global seaborne trade, or more than US\$ 4 trillion worth of goods annually. For more information about the World Shipping Council, visit www.worldshipping.org.

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