

Circular 133 / 2016

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Enhancement of the Safety of Large Container Ships, The SOLAS VI/Reg.2 as amended

Date: 19th May 2016

Summary

Maritime Cook Islands brings your attention to the following SOLAS amendment coming into force on July 1, 2016.

For the enhancement of the safety of large container ships, the SOLAS VI/Reg.2 was amended to include the mandatory requirements for verification of the gross mass of containers, as specified by Res MSC.380(94) please see below.

For further enquiries, please contact the Technical Department at df@maritimecookislands.com.

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.

**CHAPTER VI
CARRIAGE OF CARGOES AND OIL FUELS**

**Part A
General Provisions**

Regulation 2 – Cargo information

2 The following new paragraphs 4 to 6 are added after existing paragraph 3:

"4 In the case of cargo carried in a container* , except for containers carried on a chassis or a trailer when such containers are driven on or off a ro-ro ship engaged in short international voyages as defined in regulation III/3, the gross mass according to paragraph 2.1 of this regulation shall be verified by the shipper, either by:

- .1 weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment; or
- .2 weighing all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container and adding the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses, using a certified method approved by the competent authority of the State in which packing of the container was completed.

5 The shipper of a container shall ensure the verified gross mass** is stated in the shipping document. The shipping document shall be:

- .1 signed by a person duly authorized by the shipper; and
- .2 submitted to the master or his representative and to the terminal representative sufficiently in advance, as required by the master or his representative, to be used in the preparation of the ship stowage plan***.

6 If the shipping document, with regard to a packed container, does not provide the verified gross mass and the master or his representative and the terminal representative have not obtained the verified gross mass of the packed container, it shall not be loaded on to the ship.

* The term "container" should be considered as having the same meaning as defined and applied in the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972, as amended, taking into account the Guidelines for the approval of offshore containers handled in open seas (MSC/Circ.860) and the Revised recommendations on harmonized interpretation and implementation of the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972, as amended (CSC.1/Circ.138/Rev.1).

** Refer to the Guidelines regarding the verified gross mass of a container carrying cargo (MSC.1/Circ.1475).

*** This document may be presented by means of EDP or EDI transmission techniques. The signature may be an electronic signature or may be replaced by the name, in capitals, of the person authorized to sign."