

Rotterdam 23 June 2016 Direct dialling number (010) 40 20 301
Reference I/VRTO/B E-mail nagtegal@deltalinqs.nl
Re **Response to Recommendation on Weight
Verification Administration**

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

On 12 May, the Rotterdam Terminal Operator's Association informed you about the uniform method of working that its members will be observing with respect to the new regulations coming into effect on 1 July this year relating to the weighing of export containers.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) recently published a supplementary circular letter about how to deal with containers that have been loaded onto a sea-going ship before 1 July 2016 and are to be transhipped to another sea-going ship after 1 July 2016. In its attached circular letter, the IMO indicated that member states may allow for this specific transhipment of cargo to be carried out without a VGM.

Following consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the terminals in Rotterdam may assume that the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate will observe the three-month transitional period granted by the IMO in its approach to inspection and maintenance.

The SOLAS legislation effective from 1 July will, however, remain in full force. This still means that the No VGM - No Load principle will apply to all export containers after 1 July 2016. The terminals in Rotterdam will make an exception for transhipment containers that have been loaded in another port before 1 July, as permitted by the IMO and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate.

Yours faithfully,

R.C. Bagchus
Chairman VRTO