SCARBROUGH

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Question/Answer Forum: SOLAS Weight Verification Requirement

July 13, 2016

SCAR·U
Scarbrough University

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Est. 1988 Own Trucking Fleet

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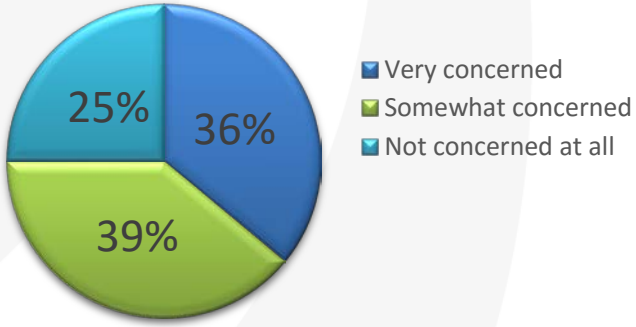
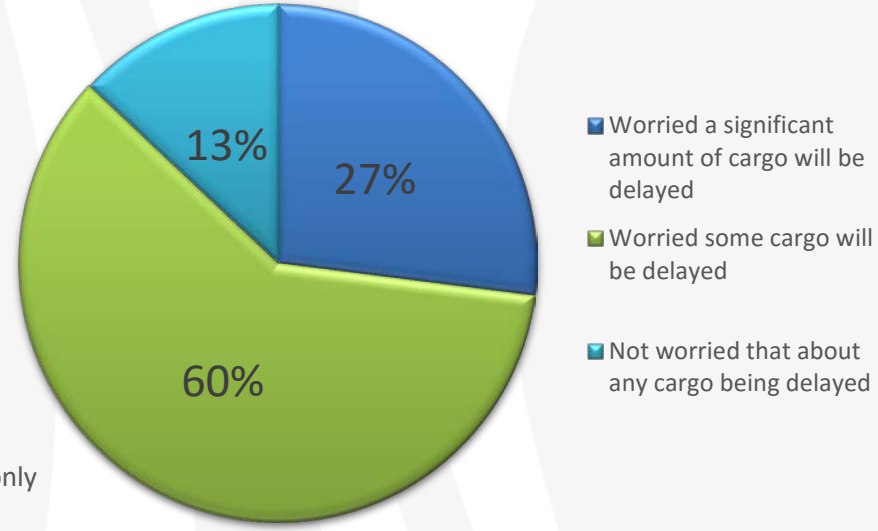
American Shipper
GLOBAL TRADE & LOGISTICS

Survey says…

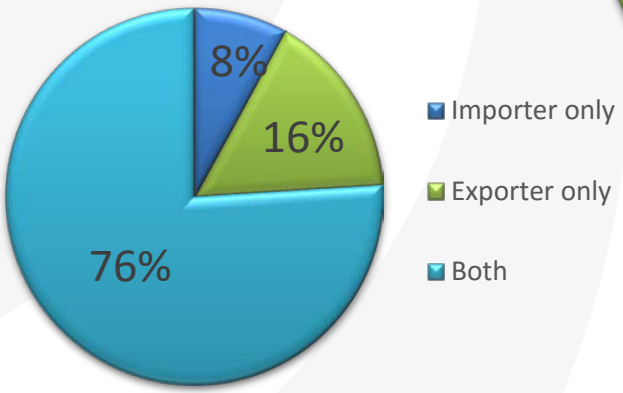
Concerned about being able to comply with the verified gross mass (VGM) rule?



Worried your cargo might be delayed when VGM goes into effect?



In terms of North America, are you an importer, exporter or both?



Source: American Shipper research, Poll of 75 shippers, July 30-July 5, 2016

Verified Gross Mass

- Implementation Date: July 1, 2016
- Enforcement Date: Grace period of 3 Months. What does this mean?
- Responsibility: The “shipper”
  - The Beneficial Cargo Owner (the owner of the goods or the exporter)
  - The non-vessel-operating common carrier (NVOCC) or
  - The Master Loader – entity that consolidates various shippers’ cargo
- Communicating VGM
- Consequences
- How to weigh

Two Methods

Method 1 requires weighing the container after loading of all goods. The weighing equipment must meet certification and calibration requirements in 29 CFR 1918.85(b). **Bulk cargo MUST be weighed by this method.

Total VGM (Total Weight):	Date:	Weighing Party Name:

Method 2 requires weighing the cargo and contents of the container and adding those weights to the tare weight of the container, which can be found on the rear door of the container or in some cases, on the carrier's website.

Total Gross Cargo Weight:		Container Tare Weight:		Total VGM (Total Weight):
	+		=	

In the United States, however, the U.S. Coast Guard published a declaration of equivalency on April 28 that will allow shippers to meet the VGM requirement of SOLAS by using scales at the entrance gate to their terminals for containers arriving by truck.

Strategies & Partnerships

The 19 ocean carrier members of the Ocean Carrier Equipment Management Association ("OCEMA") strategized together to streamline the "Terminal Weighing Approach" – providing VGM at port locations.

- South Carolina Ports Authority
- Georgia Ports Authority
- North Carolina State Ports Authority
- Port of Houston Authority
- The Port of Virginia and Virginia International Terminals
- Massachusetts Port Authority

The Agreement became effective on Friday, June 24.

OCEMA's Best Practices for VGM:
http://ocema.org/VGM_SOLAS.html

Weighing Services

- Ports in USA
  - Georgia Ports Authority
  - South Carolina Ports Authority
  - North Carolina State Ports Authority
  - Port of Houston Authority
  - Port of Virginia
  - Massachusetts Port Authority

- Terminal Operators
  - Port Everglades
  - Port of New York / New Jersey
  - Port of Oakland
  - Port of L.A. / Long Beach

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OCEAN CONTAINER DIMENSION GUIDELINES

	Standard 20'	Standard 40'	Standard 40' High Cube
Inside Length	19'4"	39'5"	39'5"
Inside Width	7' 8"	7' 8"	7' 8"
Inside Height	7' 10"	7' 10"	8' 10"
Door Width	7' 8"	7' 8"	7' 8"
Door Height	7' 6"	7' 6"	8' 5"
Capacity	*33.2 CBM*	*67.7 CBM*	*76.3 CBM*
Approx. Max. for Moveable Cargo	*approx. 37,500 lbs* *up to 43,500 w/ tri-axle chassis*	*approx. 43,500 lbs* *tri-axle chassis unavailable on 40' and 40' HC*	
Legal Road Limit = 44,000 lbs.			

To Convert	To	Multiply By
Cubic Feet	Cubic Meters	0.028317
Cubic Meters	Cubic Feet	35.3145
Pounds	Kilograms	0.4536
Kilograms	Pounds	2.2046

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