



What is happening in Ireland

WHO IS MANAGING IN IRELAND?

In Ireland enforcement of the SOLAS legislation will fall under the responsibility of the Marine Survey Office (MSO) as part of the Dept of Transport Tourism and Sport.

WHEN IS THE APPLICABLE DATE?

The applicable date has been defined as the Bill of Lading date for all shipments. Therefore, for cargo booked during June that will have a Bill of Lading date on or after 01st July, the new SOLAS regulations will apply.

WHAT ARE THE ACCEPTED TOLERANCE LEVELS IN IRELAND?

The MSO has advised that they have not set any tolerance level as part of the legislation. Therefore any actual cargo weight which is different from VGM declared could be deemed non compliant.

WHAT IF MY SHIPMENT ORIGINATES FROM ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY?

Some countries for example UK and Belgium have announced a tolerance level of 5%, whereby prosecutions and fines are not enforced once the actual weight is within 5% of the VGM declared by the shipper.

Different procedures are required within each European country (including potential requirement to register your company as VGM declarant) and we at Kuehne + Nagel will support you with full details per country on request.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE MY OWN WEIGHBRIDGE?

We at Kuehne + Nagel have in place weight stations at all main ports of export, Dublin, Waterford, Cork and Ringaskiddy. We will be in a position to support all customers with providing VGM data where required.

IS MY WEIGHING EQUIPMENT AND CALCULATION PROCESS COMPLIANT?

For customers who are using "Method 2" AKA calculation method, the MSO has noted two key notes on requirements:

"The weight equipment must be calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and meet the accuracy requirements for Class III weighing equipment as defined the EC non-automatic measuring instruments directive.

The shipper should have a documented procedure for compliance with this method and it should be incorporated into their quality management system".

WHERE CAN I GET THE TARE INFO?

The actual TARE info is noted on the CSC plates on the doors of ISO containers. Many carriers do not have a system or process to push this information to customers. We as KN will partner you to assist in providing a workable solution to secure this information.

WHAT ARE THE CUT OFFS FOR SUBMITTING THE VGM?

Most carriers have advised cut offs for VGM receipt between 24 to 48 hours prior to vessel sailing. In order to align the process for all carriers we will be applying cut off of 48 hours prior to vessel sailing for all bookings. Our system has been updated to issue proactive alert messaging for customers who are at risk of missing the cut off.

This may impact on current booking process for you and your key account manager will be in contact with you over the coming days to review any potential impact this may have to your supply chain.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE MY OWN VGM FORM?

Your key account manager or operations contact will be able to provide you with a template which will cover all the required data for completion.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Please contact your Key Account Manager to set up a review meeting for your business or in turn email us at solas.ireland@kuehne-nagel.com where we will be delighted to assist you in delivering a compliant supply chain.

