



Verified Gross Mass FAQS

**CTAA Industry Forums April
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ICHCA
AUSTRALIA

International
Cargo
Handling
Co-ordination
Association

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Overview

- VGM history (SOLAS and IMO)
- Methods for the calculation of VGM
- International compliance
- Australian compliance
- ICHCA's role
- FAQs booklet

Problems relating to misdeclared container mass



- Incorrect vessel stowage decisions
- Re-stowage of containers (and resulting delays and costs), if the overweight condition is ascertained
- Collapsed container stacks
- Containers lost overboard (both those overweight and containers that were not overweight)
- Cargo liability claims
- Chassis damage
- Damage to ships
- Stability and stress risks for ships
- Risk of personal injury or death to seafarers and shore-side workers
- Impairment of service schedule integrity

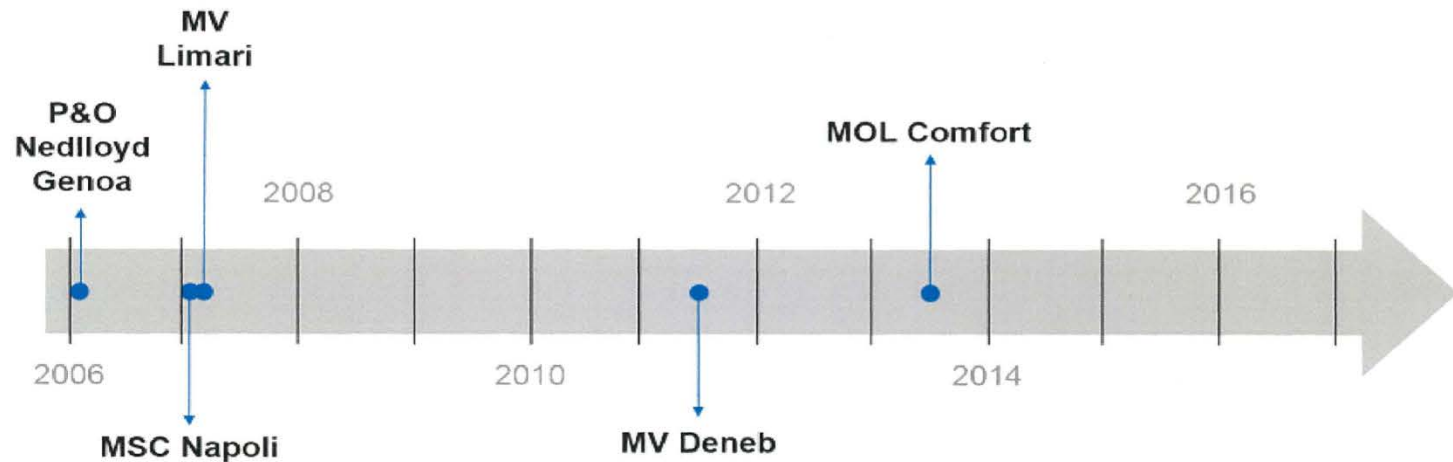
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Timeline of marine casualties



Notable marine casualties which prompted discussion amongst stakeholders on potential measures for the verification of the gross mass of packed containers

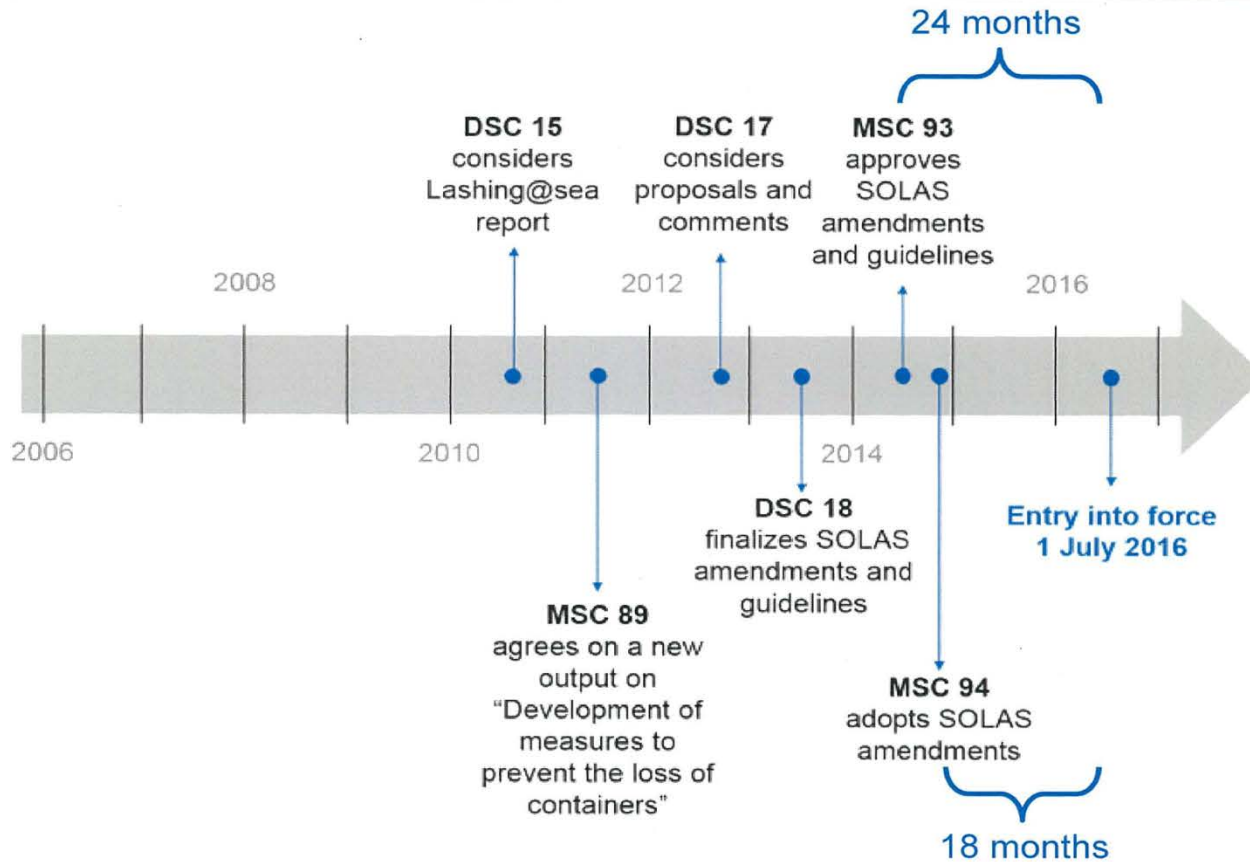




The weights declared for many of the containers on board were much lower than the actual weights



Timeline of developments at IMO



Amendments to SOLAS regulation VI/2, adopted at MSC 94



New paragraphs are added to the regulation

“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:

2 METHODS

- .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.”

Compliance

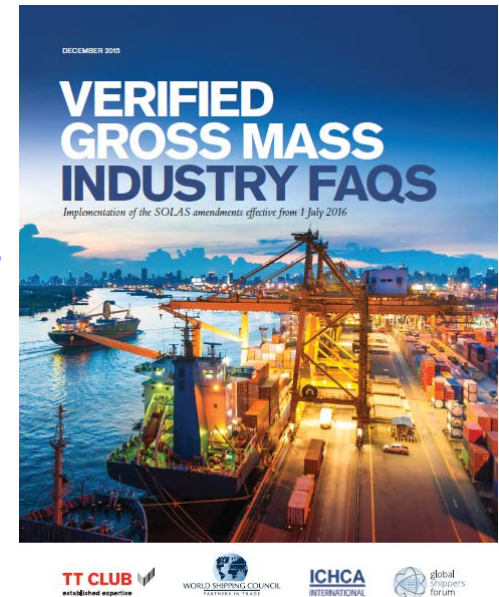
- Internationally some confusion and difficulties predicted

Australia;

- Patrick Terminals
- DP World Terminals
- Hutchinson Port Holdings
- Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal
- Victoria International Container Terminal

ICHCA involvement

- ICHCA International has published FAQs booklet in cooperation with the Global Shippers Forum, World Shipping Council and TT Club
- ICHCA Newsletter link with regular updates; <https://paper.li/e-1455807968>
- ICHCA Australia website;
<http://www.ichca-australia.com/>





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Questions?

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