



Position on SOLAS Weight Requirements

- ⚓ For many years, the South Carolina Ports Authority has weighed every export container received at its terminals on calibrated scales consistent with requirements in OSHA regulations. 29 C.F.R. § 1918.95 (b) (3).
- ⚓ The port desires to assist its export shipper customers and the container shipping lines in complying with their obligations under the SOLAS regulations regarding verified gross mass (VGM) of containers effective July 1, 2016. Equally, it is our wish to retain what has clearly been a best practice for over 20 years in safely loading ships in the Port of Charleston. Therefore, as a service to requesting export shippers, the port will provide estimated gross weights of containers and cargo.
- ⚓ All scales used to weigh export containers at both the North Charleston and Wando Terminals will be certified annually by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, the competent certification authority in the State of South Carolina. The scales that we have currently were certified in October, 2015.
- ⚓ As part of this service offering, and pursuant to applicable port tariff provisions, upon receipt of a timely request from an export shipper, the port will provide to that shipper the estimated gross weight of the container and cargo derived in the following way:
 - Gross weight of tractor (including estimate of fuel weight), container, chassis, and cargo will be determined by weighing the entire unit on the scale.
 - Deduction will be made for weight of tractor and fuel as provided by the truck driver to the interchange clerk along with the posted tare weight of the chassis.
 - After these deductions, the gross weight of the container and cargo so derived will be provided to the shipper.
 - That same weight that will be provided directly to the shipping line.
 - While this approach conforms with the methodology outlined by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in its “Guidelines Regarding the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo” published 9 June, 2014, in providing this service, the South Carolina Ports Authority does not certify the accuracy of requested weights. Rather, it makes its best efforts to assure the provision of an accurate weight using the methodology above.

- It is the clear responsibility of the shipper to provide the required weight certification to the shipping line as specified in the SOLAS regulations.
- ⚓ The export shipper shall pay a fee of \$25 per container weighed. Billing and payment arrangements must be made prior to the provision of such services.
- ⚓ The methodology for providing this weighing service is specifically attached.
- ⚓ On April 29, the United States Coast Guard declared an Equivalency to Regulation VI/2 of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). We applaud this important step by the U.S. Coast Guard, the upshot of which recognizes the well-established practice in our port of weighing all export containers consistent with 29 CFR 1918.85 (b) to determine an accurate container and cargo gross weight. We believe that this gives OCEMA container carrier members using our port a third method to comply with the SOLAS regulations. This has the benefit of incorporating a tried and true “best practice” for safely handling containers on terminals and loading ships in ports that can provide this service. We are willing to collaborate with our ocean carrier customers to achieve such a mutually beneficial solution.

YMS Weighing Process for Loaded Export Containers

- The Motor Carrier enters the perimeter security gate
- The Motor Carrier arrives at the Inbound Interchange
- The Tractor, Chassis, Container [and contents], and any accessories (i.e. genset) are weighed to establish the gross weight
- The computer system, automatically subtracts the tare weight of the container, chassis, and then the estimated weight of the genset and tractor
- At that this point, the estimated cargo weight is calculated
- Depending of the Ocean Carriers' request we EDI either the content weight or the gross weight of the loaded container
- Also, we share the requested weights with the stevedores electronically

South Carolina State Ports Authority Wando Welch Terminal			
Carrier Interchange	Mission	Page 1 of 1	
	Receive Export Loaded Container	February 11, 2016	
	ORION No. 008774	5:14 PM	
Container	Chassis (OFBT)		
	600498		
Inland Carrier	Tractor		
RELIANCE TRANSPORT INC	15856		
Gate Out/Completed Date Time	Genset		
02/08/2016 17:11:29			
Shipping Line ()			
Job Number	Turn Time	Moves	Booking
384443	00:45:41		2569173520
Container Type	Chassis Type	Reeler Setting	POD
S40S		Inactive	SHAN
Primary Seal (PLASTIC)	Secondary Seal		
6885193			
Destination			
SHANGHAI			
Vessel (9347578)			
HYUNDAI DYNASTY			
Yard Location	Scale Weight	Container Weight	Inspector
DG 009	86100 lbs	60890 lbs	VN2108
Driver Name From TWIC (MANUAL ENTRY)			
EARGLE, LEON			
NOTES			
CHS05			

Scale Weight

Container Gross Weight



