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About SMDG

SMDG is a non-profit organization, run by and on behalf of companies and organizations working in the maritime industry, like container terminals, ocean carriers, software developers and other service providers and organizations.

SMDG is officially recognized by the UN/EDIFACT Board and develops and promotes EDI-messages for the maritime industry worldwide.

The most frequently used EDIFACT message designed by the SMDG is the BAPLIE for transmission of stowage plans. It represents the industry standard and is accepted worldwide.

Other messages of the SMDG are related to the exchange of vessel schedules, container messages, terminal performance, DG bookings and invoices.

Contact us on www.smdg.org

SOLAS Regulation on VGM

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention (Chapter VI, part A, regulation 2), that require packed containers' gross mass to be verified prior to stowage aboard ship. As from July 1st 2016 this regulation, effective as global law, prohibits loading of a packed container in absence of the verified gross mass (VGM). This applies to all packed containers which are to be loaded to a vessel under SOLAS regime in international maritime traffic. Additional information on the legislation can be found on:

<http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight>

SMDG activity

Early 2015 the SMDG has formed a workinggroup to evaluate the impact of the SOLAS regulation on EDI messages. This analysis is based on the official documents from IMO and WSC and input from members, while the national legislation from most countries is not yet available.

The SMDG has provided enhanced message formats for transmission of VGM as discussed below.



Requirements and consequences of the IMO Guidelines

- The **Shipper** named on the maritime carrier’s transport document is responsible for verification and provision of a packed container’s gross mass (VGM). The Shipper in this context can also be a Forwarder, a Consolidator or an NVOCC or any other party named as “shipper” in the maritime carrier’s bill of lading or sea waybill.
- The VGM must be provided for the packed container using certified and calibrated weighing equipment, and using weighing methods as permitted by the country where the packing and weighing take place.
- The shipper may delegate the actual procedure of determining the VGM to a **3rd party**, for example a weighing facility. This does not release the shipper from his responsibility according to 1 above.
- The **terminal** must not load a packed container on a vessel as long as it has not been informed about its VGM for use in the vessel stow plan.
- The **vessel command** must not accept a packed container on board ship until they have been informed about its VGM.
- The VGM is part of the shipping documents. Besides the weight itself, the **name of the responsible person** authorized by the Shipper to declare the VGM on the shipper’s behalf must be included and be signed by that person. This information and signature may be provided electronically.
- EDI messages must be able to distinguish “VGM” and “gross mass without verification”.
- The typical reporting chains is: Shipper → Carrier → Terminal → Vessel
but different variants are possible.

SMDG activity: BAPLIE Stowage Plan and MOVINS

Purpose	Existing message		New message version including VGM		Publication
	Version	Directory	Version	Directory	
Stowage plan	BAPLIE 2.0.7	D.95B	BAPLIE 2.2 for both	D.95B	July 2015
	BAPLIE 2.1.1	D.95B			
	BAPLIE 3.0	D.13B	BAPLIE 3.1	D.13B	July 2015
Move instructions	MOVINS		no new version, VGM not needed in MOVINS		



SMDG activity: COxxxx Container Messages

Purpose	Existing message		New message version including VGM		Publication
	Version	Directory	Version	Directory	
pre arrival notice to the terminal	COPARN SMDG 2.0	D.00B	COPARN SMDG 2.1	D.00B	August 2015
	COPARN ITIGG 1.4	D.95B	COPARN SMDG 1.6	D.95B	October 2015
load list to the terminal	COPRAR SMDG 2.0	D.00B	COPRAR SMDG 2.1	D.00B	August 2015
	COPRAR SMDG 1.2	D.95B	COPRAR SMDG 1.6	D.95B	October 2015
gate-in confirmation from terminal to carrier	CODECO SMDG 2.0	D.00B	CODECO SMDG 2.1	D.00B	August 2015
	CODECO ITIGG 1.4	D.95B	CODECO SMDG 1.6	D.95B	October 2015
load report from terminal to carrier	COARRI SMDG 2.0	D.00B	COARRI SMDG 2.1	D.00B	August 2015
	COARRI SMDG 1.2	D.95B	COARRI SMDG 1.6	D.95B	October 2015

SMDG activity: VERMAS

The analysis of business requirements resulted in the need for a completely new message. This message named “VERMAS” will serve only the purpose of transmitting the VGM. Unlike other messages, the VERMAS is not dedicated to a defined process step. The VERMAS can be used between any parties in the supply chain where a VGM shall be transmitted and the existing messages are not suitable.

The VERMAS message is an offer to the maritime industry and its usage is left to agreements between the trading partners.

Purpose	Existing message		New message version including VGM		Publication
	Version	Directory	Version	Directory	
VGM Reporting			VERMAS – completely new message		
			VERMAS 0.5	D.15A MIG by SMDG	October 2015
			VERMAS 1.0	D.16A official publication	1 st HY 2016