

Simplified Electronic Filing of Verified Gross Mass Data for Shippers

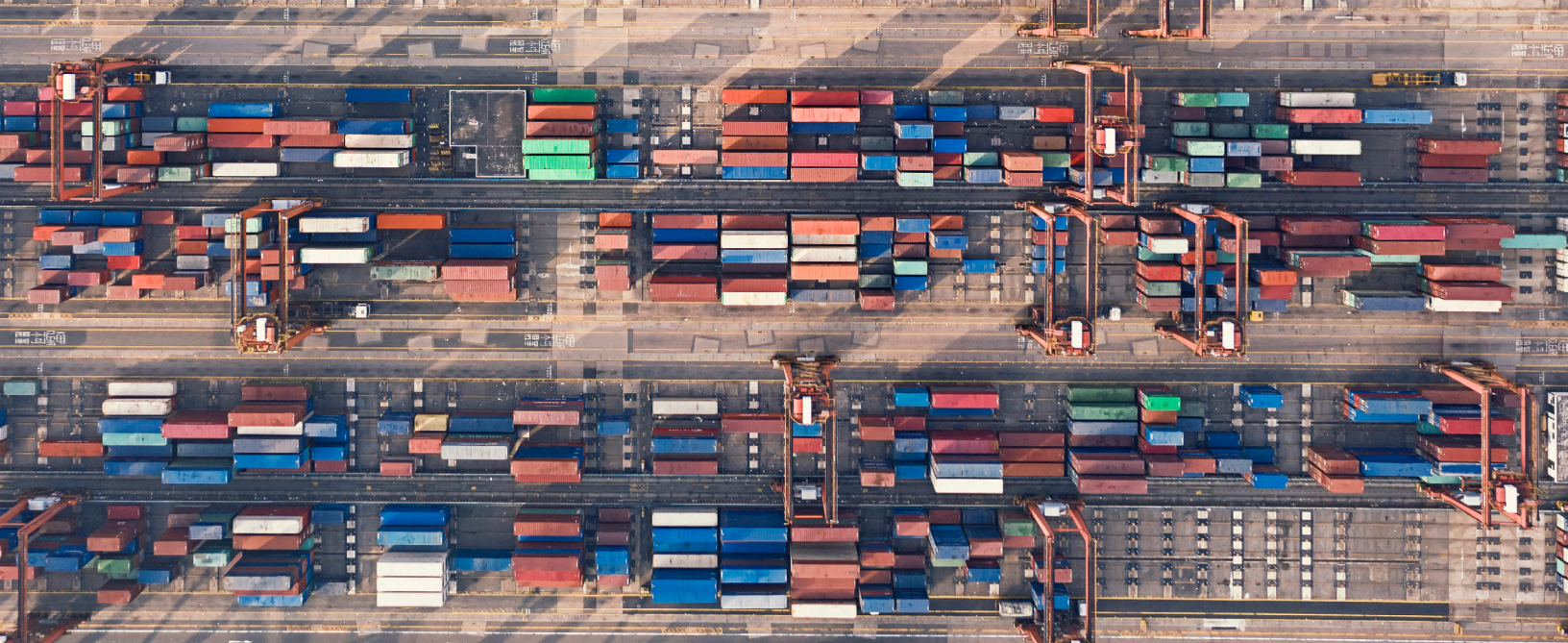
In 2016, the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention — considered the most important treaty governing merchant ship safety — added an extra requirement for shippers to electronically provide carriers with the full weight of packed containers before loading them onto a vessel. Failure to file this Verified Gross Mass (VGM) information in a timely manner could result in container detention or refusal at the terminal, additional fees from carriers or costly fines from local terminals. E2open® Bookings application includes the functionality for shippers or authorized third-party weighing providers to easily comply while creating a full audit trail.

Confident Compliance to Keep Cargo Moving

To ensure a balanced load and safely handle unpredictable ocean conditions, carriers must stow containers in precise locations depending on their weight. Even slight errors and discrepancies in the past have caused major accidents and losses. Effective July 1, 2016, the 171 member states of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) began enforcing the new amendments to the SOLAS standards requiring shippers to electronically submit the verified weight of packed containers before carriers load them. The VGM data submission feature in Bookings provides the operational capabilities to submit and access SOLAS-compliant VGM information needed for stowage planning, container authorization and loading at the terminal.

Flexible Data Submission

The VGM regulation calls for shippers to submit the total weight and measurements of packed containers — consisting of all packaging, cargo, container tare weight and any other equipment — to the carrier. Generally, shippers include the VGM data in the general shipping instructions section of their booking submission, but this process can cause issues if carriers fail to notice the data there. E2open's application provides a distinct section for users to manually input VGM data or upload mass entries from a spreadsheet. Since shippers often use consolidators at the port to do a final pack-out of their containers, the application also allows authorized third-party weighing providers and terminal weight stations to submit data on behalf of the shipper, reducing the error-prone process of relaying information between parties.



Tracking, Auditing and Reporting Tools

Once submitted, carriers respond to the shipper with a rejected or approved status message. Rejection notifications alert shippers to issues that need resolution with their VGM submission (e.g., invalid container or booking number). This provides a closed-looped repository for potential regulatory compliance audits. It also protects shippers if cargo doesn't get loaded because carriers claim the VGM data was missing. VGM data submission history can quickly be retrieved in a dashboard and extracted if necessary. System timestamps provide an audit trail for each step in the process to validate compliance.

Key Features

- Enables submission of VGM data to ocean carriers through multiple electronic formats
- Supports various weighing scenarios and submission use cases — including entries from authorized third parties
- Provides a real-time dashboard for visibility into submitted data — including time stamps and alerts
- Enables users to download reports with audit details and certifications
- Executes submissions to non-integrated carriers by email in PDF format

Key Benefits

- Ensures cargo on-boarding is not delayed or denied
- Prevents additional carrier charges or terminal violations
- Provides flexibility to adapt to varied weighing cases and authorities
- Improves efficiency through electronic filing versus phone calls or email
- Creates an error-free submission and verification process



Shippers can now quickly and easily comply with the VGM requirement of the SOLAS Convention. As a feature in Bookings they can electronically send the data to carriers and receive confirmation, keeping goods moving without delays or fines.

The Advantage of an Existing Network

E2open's applications are powered by the world's largest business network, with a comprehensive logistics community of 6,000 rail and truck carriers, 800 ocean and 200 air freight carriers, 16,000 freight forwarders and many of the most-notable logistics service providers. More than 45 million container orders are initiated annually on the e2open platform, representing over one-quarter of global ocean trade. With pre-existing connectivity to these ecosystems, shippers can be assured they are communicating properly with their carrier, terminals and other providers.

About e2open

E2open is the connected supply chain software platform that enables the world's largest companies to transform the way they make, move, and sell goods and services. With the broadest cloud-native global platform purpose-built for modern supply chains, e2open connects more than 400,000 manufacturing, logistics, channel, and distribution partners as one multi-enterprise network tracking over 12 billion transactions annually. Our SaaS platform anticipates disruptions and opportunities to help companies improve efficiency, reduce waste, and operate sustainably. Moving as one.™ Learn More:

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