

## **Weighing Solution for Exporters**

Posted: 2016-04-28



**PRESS RELEASE**

### **London Container Terminal and Grangemouth Container Terminal offer weighing solution for exporters**

Forth Ports has confirmed today (28<sup>th</sup> April) that, through significant investment in its straddle carrier fleet and IT development, the company will offer shippers a solution to determine the VGM (Verified Gross Mass) of export containers arriving at its terminals in Tilbury and Grangemouth, ensuring compliance with the updated provisions of SOLAS VI (Safety of Life at Sea).

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, the amended SOLAS VI regulations require that shippers obtain and communicate the VGM of packed containers ahead of ship stow planning. The regulations place a legal obligation on both the container terminal operator and ocean carrier not to load any container without a VGM to a ship.

Following consultation with our key export customers and the shipping lines, the port of loading is recognised as the most cost effective to identify the VGM, where this has not been provided earlier in the supply chain, ensuring a seamless change of modality from truck or train to sea.

Stuart Wallace, Divisional Director at Forth Ports said: *“Recognising the importance of compliance and continuity of service for our customers, we are pleased to confirm that we will provide a weighing service to ensure our customers have a solution to the amended regulations, allied with safeguarding those engaged in the movement and transport of containerised goods.*

*“Both the Port of Grangemouth and London Container Terminal in Tilbury will weigh those boxes requiring VGM as part of the overall operational flow minimising any impact on our operational procedures at the interchange points.*

Further details in relation to the operation of the service and its associated charges will be published in the coming weeks, ahead of its planned introduction.

28 April 2016

-Ends-

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**Notes to editors**

**Forth Ports**

Forth Ports Limited owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of

navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.

[www.forthports.co.uk](http://www.forthports.co.uk)

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