

Press release 20 June 2016

## **Container VGM now at APM Terminals Gothenburg**

**In response to the IMO regulation, APM Terminals Gothenburg will implement a new weighing service for export containers delivered to the terminal without certified Gross Mass Verification.**

**Gothenburg, Sweden-** APM Terminals Gothenburg, the largest container terminal in Scandinavia, will offer container Verified Gross Mass (VGM) weighing services beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> for containers arriving at the terminal without prior certified weight verification.

In 2014, the International Maritime organization (IMO), the agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating international seaborne trade, approved amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) which as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 will require verification and documentation of loaded export containers before they can be transferred onto vessels. This can be accomplished by either weighing the loaded container with calibrated and certified equipment, or weighing the cargo prior to loading and adding it to the tare weight of the empty container. The purpose of the VGM regulations is to assure safety of the vessel, as well as dockworkers and other cargo handlers by preventing overweight or otherwise misrepresented containers from jeopardizing shipments or container movements.

“Our weighing service is intended to make the logistics easier for customers who are not in a position to weigh the goods themselves. These new SOLAS requirements align with our own safety procedures and are an important measure to ensuring safe transport by sea. APM Terminals Gothenburg will not permit containers which have not been weighed to be loaded onto a vessel” stated APM Terminals Gothenburg CCO Morten Brühl.

The VGM weighing will be performed at the point when the containers arrive at the terminal and are transferred from one mode of transport to another. “We will start the weighing option on-site on a small scale to judge the need, but we have already invested in weighing equipment linked to the railroad cranes for intermodal containers arriving by train, and also in the marshalling area for trucks; “The VGM data is then sent to the shipping company through EDI”, advised Mr. Brühl.

While the expectation is that export customers will book their terminal VGM certification in advance, there will also be an opportunity for “drive-in” service if necessary.

Containers which have arrived at the terminal before 1 July and have remained in storage must also be weighed before they can be loaded onto a vessel.

In 2015, APM Terminals Gothenburg handled 743,000 TEUs, or approximately half of all Swedish container traffic. There are currently 25 rail shuttles a week linking Gothenburg with commercial and industrial centers in Sweden and Norway. Nearly half of all the

terminal's container traffic moves by rail into and out of the facility, the highest proportion of any European port.

APM Terminals Gothenburg is one of 39 terminals within the APM Terminals Global Terminal Network to offer container weighing services. The weighing fee will be SEK 450 per container when booked in advance. The new service will start June 21, 2016.

<http://www.apmterminals.com/en/operations/europe/gothenburg/about-us/container-weighing-services>

#novgmload

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**About APM Terminals Gothenburg**

APM Terminals Gothenburg is the largest container terminal in the Nordic region. Over 50 per cent of all container freight to and from Sweden passes through the port. The terminal handles at least 20 arrivals each week. These include direct calls, ocean-going vessels that come directly from other continents and feeder vessels from other ports in northern Europe. APM Terminals Gothenburg is the only terminal in Sweden with the capacity to receive and handle the largest ocean-going vessels. Around half of all the container traffic to and from the port of Gothenburg is transported by rail, which has major benefits for the environment. APM Terminals, with its headquarter in The Hague, employs 20,600 people in 69 countries and has a turnover of USD 4.24 billion (2015).  
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