Meet the challenge of container weighing with Master Terminal™

A significant change to global container operations came into effect on July 1, 2016, making it mandatory to verify a container’s gross mass (weight) before it is loaded onto a vessel.

For terminal operators, the new regulations provided a commercial opportunity by offering container weight verification as a service to shippers, who may not have access to the facilities needed to conduct container weighing operations.

Jade Logistics’ terminal operating system (TOS) Master Terminal is configured to handle the two methods of container weighing accepted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO):

1. Weighing the packed container after loading and sealing
2. Weighing all of the constituent cargo items including pallets, dunnage, and packing material and adding it to the tare mass of the container

Master Terminal’s container weighing features:

- Record a container’s weight using in-machine technology or weighbridges that interface directly to Master Terminal
- Manually enter a pre-recorded container weight and mark it as verified
- Store known weights, including trucks, chassis, packaging and pallets
- Apply stops to packed containers so that containers without a verified weight will not be loaded on to a vessel
- Enable load list comparisons so that a terminal can identify any discrepancies in weight between what the terminal and the shipper has as the verified weight
Verified container weights
In Master Terminal there are three ways that the weight of a cargo item can be verified:

1. Weighing the cargo item on a weighbridge or in-machine

Weighbridge:
   i. Configure your terminal’s weighbridge by recording any known vehicle, chassis, generator, machine, and cargo tare weights.
   ii. Weigh cargo by directing a truck or machine to your weighbridge, the total weight is recorded.
   iii. Master Terminal subtracts the known tare weights from the total weighed value to calculate the weight of the cargo item on the vehicle or machine.

In-Machine:
If your terminal has machines such as forklifts, reach stackers, or straddles with in-machine weighing capability then you can record weights without the need for a weighbridge. When one of these machines picks up a container, the cargo is automatically or manually recorded by using radio telemetry.

Note: By default a weighbridge or in-machine weight in Master Terminal is recorded as a verified weight. If this is not the case just uncheck the “Weight Certified” checkbox.

A weighbridge can also be used to weigh constituent cargo items including any pallets, dunnage, and packing material.

2. Weighing the cargo item with a To Do task
You can assign a cargo item a “Requires Weighing” To Do task. When a driver accepts a radio telemetry move, the system automatically checks to see whether the cargo item requires weighing. If the cargo item has already been successfully weighed, the system does not require the cargo item to be weighed again unless specifically requested.

If a cargo item has an uncompleted “Requires Weighing” To Do task, you cannot release that item to a destination terminal unless that terminal is in the allowed release terminals list of the To Do task. If you attempt to release a cargo item that has To Do tasks, an error is displayed when you try to depart the truck, train, or vessel from the terminal.

Note: A weight that has not been taken programmatically from a machine, i.e. entered via a form, is not certified by default but can be setup to be certified if you require.

3. Manually updating the flag in the cargo inquiry screen
If the cargo has been officially weight verified (internally, or by a partner), you can check the “weight certified” check box in the cargo inquiry screen.

Reporting
If legislation stipulates that your terminal must ensure that every container going on a vessel has been weighed, then reporting is an essential aspect to consider. Master Terminal allows you to run transaction reports to determine whether any cargo still requires weighing and a yard allocation can be used to separate containers that still require weighing. You can also record how the verified weight has been obtained.

Not just containers
Master Terminal is designed to handle mixed cargo, meaning that weights can be measured for not just containers but bulk and break bulk cargo, RORO, and project cargo. You can specify which of these cargo items are to be automatically weighed. For each terminal you can also specify whether an operator requires its import or export containers to be weighed.

Interfacing and data transmission
Further benefits of Master Terminal’s container weighing functionality include the ability to interface with external weighing systems, and the ability to transmit data via wireless networks.

Master Terminal also enables terminals to receive and communicate the verified weight of packed containers via Electronic Data Interchange messages in line with the new SOLAS requirements.

With mandatory container weighing regulations now in force, is your terminal in a position to capitalize on this opportunity? Talk to us: jadelogistics.com/contact-us