CTUpack
e-learning

A range of e-learning courses for the safe handling and packing of cargo transport units (CTUs).

Introduction to the CTU Code course

This course provides an introduction to the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice (CTU Code) and an overview of its development and objectives.
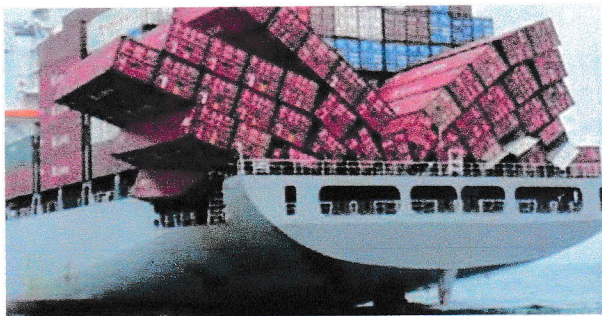
CTUpack Foundation course

A foundation level course for those involved in the loading and unloading of CTUs. The aim of the course is to support the training of consolidators and packers and to promote best practice.

Introduction to Freight Container VGM course

This course highlights the requirements of the new amendment to SOLAS, Chapter VI, Regulation 2 concerning the verified mass of containers carrying cargo, mandatory from 1 July 2016. This requires mandatory verification of the gross mass of a container prior to loading on to a ship via two methods; either weighing the packed container as a whole, or weighing the cargo items and all dunnage, lashing and securing material and adding this to the tare of the container.

CTUpack *e-learning*™

Courses

Introduction to the CTU Code Course

This course provides an introduction and overview to the CTU Code. It highlights how to navigate the key sections of the Code and how it can support training in the packing and securing of cargo into/onto CTUs. The course is aimed at anyone who has an interest in learning more about this Code and how it can be used in their day-to-day role. It also includes a brief overview of the new SOLAS Verified Gross Mass (VGM) regulations and direct links to the electronic version of the CTU Code.

The course focuses on:
- Development of the CTU Code
- Legal situation and compliance
- Overview of the CTU Code structure
- How to access the CTU Code

CTUpack Foundation Course

This course is for those involved in the loading and unloading of containers and other cargo transport units. The aim of the course is to familiarise consolidators and packers with key packing considerations.

The course contains four main modules:
- **Cargo** - main types of cargo, physical characteristics and highlights what can go wrong.
- **Transport** - how cargo is transported, the main types of equipment used, forces and stresses encountered during transport and route considerations.
- **Packing** - preparation and inspection of the CTU prior to packing, planning how to pack the CTU, manual and mechanical handling considerations, the packing process, securing materials, basic principles for packing and securing, closing the CTU and CTU security, documenting the shipment and insurance considerations.
- **Arrival** - considerations when opening the CTU upon arrival, unpacking methods and inventories and removal of securing materials.

Introduction to Freight Container VGM

This course explores the verified gross mass requirement, including the two methods permitted to verify the gross mass, weighing the packed container (Method 1) or weighing all constituent parts and adding that to the tare of the container (Method 2). This course is designed to provide all the information needed to understand why this legal requirement was developed, its objectives and offer practical solutions.

The course focuses on:
- Development of the SOLAS requirement and accompanying Guidelines
- Method 1 or Method 2?
- Method 1 potential solutions
- Method 2 appraisal
- Legal situation and compliance
- Developing FAQs - a summary of the frequently asked questions that have occurred in international fora since the legislation was adopted

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As highlighted by the container insurance company TT Club and the Cargo Identification Notification System (CINS), poor CTU packing is responsible for an alarmingly high percentage of incidents along the transport chain, leading to damage, loss, injuries and fatalities. Additionally, the declaration of incorrect container weights is also contributing to incidents.

There have been two important changes that should have a positive impact on the movement of goods around the globe, and improve safety in the supply chain. The first is the new CTU Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTUs). The second is the amendment to SOLAS concerning verification of gross mass for containers, mandatory from 1 July 2016.

Examples of poor packing

Examples of good packing

What is the aim of the CTU Code of Practice for Packing of CTUs?

The aim of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) is to give advice on the safe packing and securing of cargo into cargo transport units (CTUs) to those responsible for the packing and securing of the cargo, and by those whose task it is to train people to pack such units. The aim is also to outline theoretical details for packing and securing as well as to give practical measures to ensure the safe packing of cargo onto or into CTUs.

In addition to advice to the packer, the CTU Code also provides information and advice for all parties in the supply chain up to and including those involved in unpacking the CTU.

The CTU Code also addresses issues such as training and the packing of dangerous goods. It states, 'The successful application of this Code concerning the packing of CTUs and the achievement of its objectives are greatly dependent on the appreciation by all persons concerned of the risks involved and on a detailed understanding of the Code. This can only be achieved by properly planned and maintained initial and retraining programmes for all persons concerned with the packing of CTUs.'
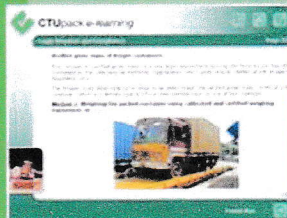

The CTU Code is not intended to conflict with, or to replace or supersede, any existing national or international regulations which may refer to the packing and securing of cargo in CTUs. As a Code of Practice it may however be used as evidence of industry standard practice in the event of an incident resulting from poor packing.

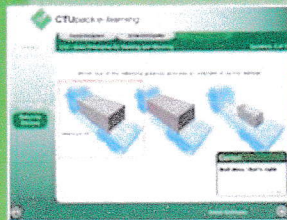## What are the requirements for verified gross mass (VGM)?

In November 2014, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted mandatory amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter VI, Part A, Regulation 2 – Cargo Information, effective from 1 July 2016. The SOLAS amendments place a requirement on the shipper of a packed container, regardless of who packed the container, to verify and provide the container's verified gross mass (VGM) to the ocean carrier and port terminal representative prior to it being loaded onto a ship. VGM is the combined weight of a container's tare weight and the weights of all the packages and cargo items, including pallets, dunnage and other packing and securing materials packed into the container. It can be calculated using one of two approved methods: either weighing the packed container as a whole, or weighing the cargo items and all dunnage, lashing and securing material and adding this to the tare of the container.

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The e-learning approach

Learn
Tutorial screens in the course elements use text, graphics and animation.

Test student understanding
There is a test of the student's understanding of the content either at the end of each module or at the end of the course with multiple choice and graphic based questions.

Course completion certificate
Test scores build towards a final course completion score and certificate.

Benefits

- **High quality training** - aligned with industry best practice
- **Cost-effective** – fraction of the cost of classroom training and less disruptive than absence from work
- **Flexible learning** – courses taken at the student's own pace or to a timetable set by management
- **Course management** – administrator function to monitor, manage and record results for any number of students in local, regional or global training programs
- **Certificate** – course assessment to ensure understanding of learning topics; final course completion score and certificate. Verified certificate option available

Flexible delivery

Web delivery – web courses are accessible from any location. Can be accessed over the internet with a pc, laptop or tablet device (iPad and Android).

Includes administrator function for management of multiple courses including:

- Course set up by designated administrators in different regions, setting pass marks and timeframes for completion
- Individual student progress monitored
- Company-specific training content can be incorporated into courses
- Access to course records and student certificates

SCORM content packages – e-learning content for import into SCORM-compliant learning management systems. All course navigation is within the SCORM package.