

Driver Check List for Cargo Security

Cargo theft is a serious problem costing trucking firms and shippers hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Lives are endangered by thieves who are becoming more and more violent. Terrorism is a new threat, as well. Many of the following checklist items are applicable to preventing terrorist attacks on the North American transportation infrastructure.

Here are tips to prevent cargo theft and terrorism offered by a panel of professional drivers. If you answer "NO" to any one of these, you may be placing yourself, the public, and your load in danger.

Drivers CAN Help Prevent Cargo Losses

Yes No

Do you know exactly who to call and their phone number in case your load is stolen? Do you have an alternate number in case you cannot reach the original party?

Yes No

Are you aware that someone is almost always watching you, and waiting for you to make your cargo or your vehicle easier to steal?

Yes No

Are you on the look out for suspicious vehicles following you? They may be waiting for you to make a mistake or for you to get to where they intend to hijack your load.

Yes No

Do you avoid talking about cargo-related information on CB radios and cell phones? (It's a safe

bet that thieves are always listening)

- Don't discuss the type of cargo you are carrying, especially if it's high value or hazardous cargo
- Don't mention the name of the shipper
- Don't talk about where you'll be making stops or deliveries
- Don't give out the name of your company - thieves will distract you by talking as if they know the company or used to work for it
- Don't talk about loads that other drivers are hauling
- Don't ask for directions to a consignee whose name may identify the presence of a high risk load. (asking for directions to "Computer City" is not a good idea)
- Don't use the CB to assist in spotting loaded trailers in the yard - thieves may be outside waiting to hear where valuable loads will be located that night

Yes No

Do you avoid leaving keys in the tractor while the engine is running, even though the doors are locked? Remember -

- Keys are easy to duplicate
- Windows are easily broken
- Your load is quickly gone!

Yes No

Do you always lock your tractor, even if you will just be away for a minute? Remember -

- Sleepers are a great place for thieves to hide

Yes No

Do you always lock your trailers? Seals do not stop thieves or terrorists who might place a weapon in your trailer.

Yes No

Do you include cargo security in your pre-trip inspection before every trip? Look for properly secured seals, locks, evidence of tampering, suspicious persons, etc.

Yes No

Do you record the trailer license plate number on the pre-trip inspection form in case a loss has to be reported? Police prefer license numbers instead of company trailer numbers which can easily be changed or obscured.

Yes No

Do you always park in well-lighted areas at night? This is critically important; bad guys don't like light.

Yes No

Do you always park in secured areas? These are becoming more common throughout the country as trucking companies realize the importance of secure, patrolled parking.

Yes No

Are you cautious of lumpers? Drivers should avoid offering rides to lumpers or giving them unsupervised access to loads. Most lumpers are hard-working persons looking for a way to sup-

port themselves. Some aren't and drivers need to look out for suspicious behavior.

Yes No

Do you vary the routes you take if allowed by your company? Don't stop at the same places all the time. Keep thieves, terrorist, and their informants guessing.

Yes No

Do you avoid overnight parking at truck stops? Put yourself in a thief's mind - where else could they find so much opportunity in one place?

Yes No

Do you avoid arriving at a consignee before they open? Early arrival means exposing the load to theft while parked, usually in the dark, while waiting to make the delivery.

Yes No

Do you have directions to the consignee or shipper before starting your trip? Also, do you get directions on how to get out of the area as well as how to get to it?

Yes No

Do you always use king pin locks or other high security devices, when dropping off trailers?

Yes No

Do you park your rig to block access to the trailer doors if you have to leave it unattended overnight or for long periods?

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