

# Cargo theft

## Are you creating opportunities for cargo thieves?

85% of cargo theft happens while in transit. Some attacks are opportunistic and some are highly sophisticated and organised – many involve violence.

Many thefts occur in unsecured roadside parking often used as rest areas. Can you afford to put your drivers and reputation at risk? This document outlines key factors to consider making it harder for thieves to target your fleet.

## What are the risks?



# How can you mitigate these risks?

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## PURCHASE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

- Consider the equipment you are using
  - Curtain sided trailer (anti-slash curtains)
  - Box van/container
- Explore the use of security devices to deter or prevent access; specialist locks, tamper proof seals, GPS tracking devices, covert tracking devices, forensic solutions, consider utilising vehicle mounted, camera equipment

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## PLAN THE JOURNEY

- Risk assess routes and planned parking areas
- Identify locations for trends of historical cargo theft incidents
  - Engage with local authorities
  - Engage with industry organisations such as [TAPA](#)
  - For the UK, download the [Motorway Buddy App](#)
  - If in doubt, speak to your TT Club contact.
- Know the cargo you are contracting to carry
  - Its intrinsic value and theft attractiveness
  - Is the cargo in high demand (electronics/ food and drink)
  - Have market forces changed, increasing the demand for the cargo (medical supplies/ face masks)



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## TRAIN YOUR TEAM

- Train truck drivers to be aware of theft risks
  - Robbery response
  - Regular vehicle checks
  - Recognition of developing threats
  - Use of secure parking
  - Communication with authorities and management
  - Key control
  - Minimise the time a vehicle is left unattended
  - Vary routes
- Information security
- Manage the use of social media

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## KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH

- Verify the legitimacy of sub-contractors – never underestimate the importance of due diligence
  - Full legal name and registered address
  - Details of other branches
  - Contact details (telephone, email and website)
  - Verify ownership (regulations/sanctions)
  - Legal form (LTD, Sole trader or PLC)
  - Company registration number
  - Tax (e.g. VAT) registration number
  - Governmental or similar audit scheme (e.g. AEO) membership
  - Key personnel and their roles
  - Authority of the individual to sign on behalf of the supplier
- Share and distribute shipment information on a strictly need to know basis

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## INSIDER THREAT

- Implement a screening/vetting procedure to ensure workforce integrity, including;
  - Employee and contractor past employment
  - Criminal history checks.
  - Develop a procedure for dealing with workforce's false declaration pre-& post hiring.
  - Develop a procedure to recover physical assets from terminated workforce to include company IDs, access badges, keys, equipment, uniform or sensitive information

## WATCH OUT FOR RED FLAGS

- Be wary of websites offering trucking services
- Unsolicited approaches from unknown parties offering services
- WhatsApp/online group communication solutions to access freight
- Contractors using only free mail and mobile phone communications

