



Transport Risk Management



Protecting trucks and cargoes from theft

1. Advice to Truck Operators: recruit the right drivers, train them and implement good operating procedures.

Truck operators, cargo owners and insurers are suffering rising losses following increasing numbers of thefts and hi-jacking of trucks and their cargoes across the UK and Continental Europe. Total costs of losses are unknown due to many incidents going unreported to the authorities but it is estimated to be several billion Euros/Dollars for each European nation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimated in January 2003 that worldwide thefts of cargo amounted to USD50 billion. In an effort to help reduce the risk of theft ACE Transport Risk Management, in collaboration with truck operators, carriers, shippers and regulatory authorities have developed guidelines for truck owners and companies when transporting goods by road.

- Recruit the right drivers. Check employment references and previous 5-10 year history, actually speaking to previous employers to help establish if they have a criminal record. Similar procedures for short term/agency staff
- Check driver's licence is valid and for any endorsements - review every 6 months. If driving in Europe, ensure driver is experienced. If not, ensure accompanied by experienced driver for initial few trips
- Security training should be given to all drivers and warehouse staff detailing specific written procedures which should be complied with to avoid a breach of their contract of employment
- Issue drivers with signed Photo I.D. Cards to be worn during working hours. Ensure proper procedures are followed when collecting/delivering goods
- No unauthorised personnel, hitchhikers etc. carried in cab. Cab doors remain locked throughout transit
- If stopped by police, do not leave cab. Show "vulnerable load/ multi-lingual cards" advising that the driver will follow to nearest police station. This helps prevent hi-jack attempts by bogus officials
- Regular reporting in via radio/cell phone to base with any deviations to pre-agreed routing being advised
- Unless in an emergency only stop in approved secure locations. Always lock vehicle, remove keys and use anti-theft devices no matter how short the stop is
- Drivers to be aware of being followed, not discuss load/routing etc. with strangers and to report unusual circumstances to base and authorities



ACE European Group Ltd.
ACE Building
100 Leadenhall Street
London EC3A 3BP

+44 (0)20 7173 7000 *tel*
+44 (0)20 7173 7800 *fax*
marine-uk@ace-ina.com e-mail
www.ancelimited.com
www.ace-baracuda.com

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the Financial Services Authority

For specific advice and
guidance call any ACE
Transportation Risk
Manager

In the UK:
Phil Skelton
+44 (0)121 234 1147

In Europe:
Peter Kelderman
+49 (0)69 756 13135