

CARGO THEFT

Best Practices/Self Evaluation

There is no simple solution to eliminating the risk of a cargo and/or vehicle loss. However steps can be taken to minimize the risk.

All carriers should ask the questions that are provided.

The questions are designed to assist in:

- Developing a corporate approach to theft prevention
- Protecting information about freight and its movement
- Taking preventative action at terminal facilities
- Taking preventative action on the highway

General Policy Issues

Avoiding the decisions and effort necessary to establish a security system exposes a carrier to significant risk and high costs when faced with a loss. All trucking companies should consider an overall corporate approach towards managing cargo theft, and ask the following questions:

1. Is someone directly responsible for implementing and maintaining cargo theft policies and procedures?
2. Is there a written policy and procedures in place?
3. Does this policy demonstrate that theft and dishonesty will not be tolerated by anyone regardless of position or past service?
4. Is this policy based on past incidents and on the experiences of other similar trucking operations?
5. Was the policy developed with the assistance of recognized experts, including your insurance company?
6. Is the policy communicated to all employees; in particular, is it part of a new employee's orientation?
7. Are employees given any training in theft prevention to reinforce the program?
8. Are the policy and procedures periodically reviewed (at least once a year)?
9. If there is a theft, however small, is it investigated by a team (drivers, operations staff, and maintenance staff) and is corrective action taken and the program evaluated?

10. Are you aware of the potential value of the cargo you are handling and its attractiveness to thieves?
11. Are you and your employees aware that at certain times of the week and certain times of the year you are more vulnerable?
12. Have you established contact with the local police force to acquaint them with your operational procedures?
13. Do you have a policy to immediately notify the police and your insurance company, and is someone designated to be responsible for this?
14. Do you have a list of all necessary police and insurance contacts? (The sooner it is known that a theft has occurred, the sooner action can be taken to recover the vehicle and/or cargo and possibly apprehend the thieves.)
15. Do you know if the third parties you deal with (freight forwarders, load brokers, interlining carriers, shipping agents, etc.) have cargo theft policies and procedures?

