

The Basics

Cargo includes all transported items, materials and accessory equipment carried by commercial vehicles. When transporting cargo, you are responsible for ensuring it is secured and contained to prevent shifting, tipping, falling or spilling onto the roadway.

Loading, transporting and unloading cargo has the potential to expose workers and the public to hazardous situations.

Poor planning and improper loading or unloading can result in workers being struck or crushed by shifting or falling materials.

Overexertion can cause musculoskeletal injuries that result in persistent pain and time off work. Cargo weight must be determined, and trained operators must use appropriate equipment to move loads that are too heavy to lift manually.

Loads not properly secured are at risk of falling onto roadways during transport. Unbalanced materials and equipment can tip over or cause a vehicle to tip over.

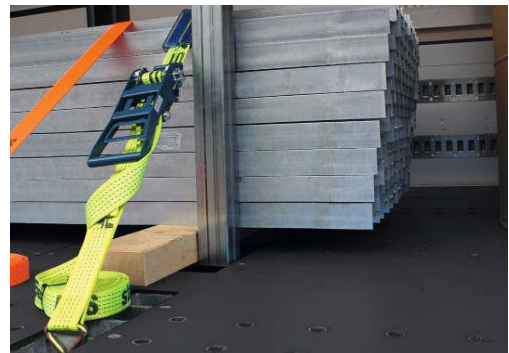


Example Scenarios For Harm or Damage

- Worker injures back adjusting improperly loaded materials.
- Pipes fall from the stack onto the worker when securements are removed.
- Materials are damaged when dropped by an untrained equipment operator.
- An unsecured plywood sheet blows out of an open truck bed.
- Debris piled to one side causes a truck to tip when rounding a corner.

How To Protect Yourself

- Identify materials that could be dislodged during transport and could put workers or the public in danger.
- Create a plan to ensure that cargo can be safely loaded, securely transported and unloaded on site.
- Identify anchor points and ensure that securement methods adequately prevent the movement of loads.
- Ensure the proper unit (truck, trailer, combination) is used for moving cargo.
- Ensure workers are not in the danger zone around or under loads.
- Ensure that workers operating equipment are trained and competent.



Other Things to Consider

- Check securement equipment (straps, chains, etc.) for damage.
- Ensure long loads (more than 3 feet past the end) are appropriately flagged for visibility.
- Use tarps to cover loose materials.
- Routinely check loads.
- Ensure doors and gates are securely latched.
- Consider traffic factors (equipment height, weight and seasonal road restrictions, etc.).

Communication is key to prevent injuries and damage related to the improper loading and transport of cargo.

Legislation

The Security of Loads Regulations, 2013.
Section 2.1 & 4.1

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020. Section 6-15.