



LORRY CRIME PREVENTION

Information for drivers on preventing road freight crime and illegal immigrants



INTRODUCTION

This information booklet has been produced for lorry drivers who transport freight to and from the United Kingdom.

It will help to make you more aware of the threats you face from criminals and illegal immigrants while driving to the UK, and while you are in this country.

The information and advice will help you to stay safe, protect your vehicle and minimise the risk of you becoming a victim of crime.

Please take some time to read this information and keep it safe in your cab in case you need it in the future.

CONTENTS

Part 1: Preventing Lorry & Load Theft

Pages 2 - 5

Part 2: Preventing Illegal Immigrants

Pages 6 - 12



Part 1: PREVENTING LORRY & LOAD THEFT

Road freight crime is a common problem across Europe and costs the UK economy up to £250million every year. This causes huge economic loss and disruption to the haulage industry and its drivers.

Lorries and their trailer loads are often very valuable; criminals know this so will look to target vulnerable vehicles and loads to steal them.

**1,604 Large Goods Vehicles
were stolen in the UK
during 2009**

**1,103 thefts occurred from
Large Goods Vehicles in
the UK during 2009**



By following the simple advice provided here you can prevent lorry theft and reduce the chance of you becoming a victim of crime.

Be Secure

- *Always lock your lorry* when you leave it and set alarms
- *Always take the keys with you* - never leave them in the cab
- *While driving* - keep your cab doors locked
- *While driving* - lock the trailer load
- *When loading or unloading* - lock the cab



Plan Ahead

- **Plan your route before you start your journey**
This will mean that you will not have to stop to ask directions
- **Avoid taking the same routes or stops for breaks**
A recognisable pattern makes an easier target for thieves
- **Arrange a procedure with your company** for authorising changes to your delivery destination

Park Safely

- **Before starting your journey, decide where you are going to park overnight**
- **Use secure overnight lorry parks with the Park Mark® label**
- **Locations of secure lorry parks in England are at www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/13659.aspx**
- **Park your lorry where you can see it when you leave to eat**
- **Park with the loading doors close to another vehicle or wall**
- **When returning to your lorry, check all over for signs of any interference. Record your check on a checklist.**



Be Aware

- **Never pick up passengers**
- **Do not leave your personal property on view in the cab**
- **Avoid talking about loads or routes with other drivers or customers** (including over radios and telephones)
- **Protect documents such as shipping orders and consignment notes.** If these are stolen, criminals can use them as authority to pick up valuable loads.

Criminal Traps

Thieves will try and stop you while you are driving or delivering by using a number of different tricks to steal your lorry or load. These include 'staged' accidents, impersonating police officers or pretending that your trailer doors are open.

Below are details of two common traps that criminals use and how to prevent them:

'Round The Corner' Theft

This is where criminals approach a driver as he arrives at his destination or is parked outside waiting to unload. The criminals will often pretend to be working at the destination and wear a staff uniform or a high visibility vest, shirt and tie. They may appear to know where you are delivering and what load you are carrying.

The criminals will then use a cover story about a flooded warehouse, broken forklift or long queue ahead and will offer to help you unload or take you 'round the corner' to another yard to unload.

- **If you are approached in this way and asked to unload at a different destination, always telephone your own transport office to check that this request is genuine.**
- **If you are driving and receive a telephone call asking you to divert to another destination (and don't recognise the caller), always telephone your own transport office to check that this request is genuine.**



Bogus Police or VOSA Officers

This is where criminals pretend to be police or VOSA officers so that they can stop your lorry and steal your load. The criminals may try to stop you by flashing their lights in an unmarked vehicle or telephone you and ask you to pull over for a police/VOSA officer behind you.

- **If you are stopped by an unmarked vehicle, pull over when it is safe to do so in a well lit public area. Stay in your cab with the engine running and doors locked. Telephone your transport office to tell them that you have been stopped.**
- **Genuine police officers will have no objection to being asked to verify details through a police control room. If police or VOSA need to stop your lorry, they will usually be able to use a marked vehicle for this.**



IF YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICIONS, TELEPHONE FOR HELP!

- **If you think a vehicle is following you then phone your transport office**
- **If you think you are in danger phone 999 for police**
- **If you are attacked, do not resist. Telephone your transport office and the police as soon as you can.**

To recognise genuine VOSA officers/vehicles visit www.rha.uk.net/ContentFiles/VOSA%20RHA%20Vosa%20stops%202009.pdf

Part 2: PREVENTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Any lorry driver transporting freight into the UK from Europe should be aware of the threat from illegal immigrants attempting to reach the UK. This is particularly common in Northern France, near Calais or Dunkirk.

This section contains information about how illegal immigrants will target your lorry, where they will try to hide and what you should do if you suspect that they are on board.

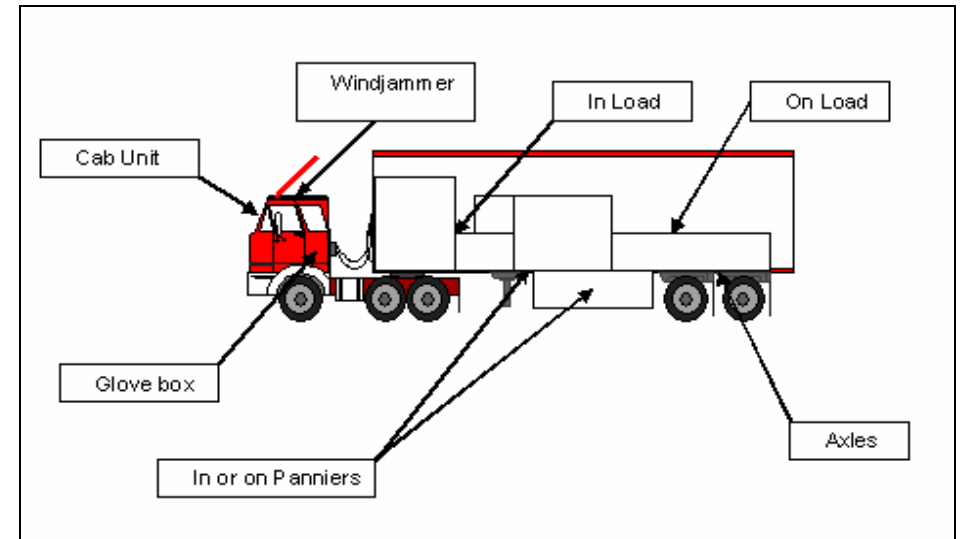


Illegal immigrants wait to jump onto lorries as they slow down in traffic on route to the ferry terminal in Calais.



Common Locations for Illegal Immigrants

The diagram below shows the common places where illegal immigrants will try and hide so that they can enter the UK illegally:



Examples of Concealed Illegal Immigrants

Illegal immigrants will target any type of lorry travelling to the UK so that they can evade immigration controls. They usually target lorries at driver rest areas when the driver is away or asleep for a period of time.

Illegal immigrants have been found in lorries with hard-sided, soft-sided and refrigerated trailers. They have also been found inside tankers carrying food or chemical products which can be dangerous and cause burns, suffocation, drowning and death to those inside.

Inside Tanker Load

- 18 illegal immigrants found in tanker full of gluten powder (German-registered lorry at Calais, 27th August 2009)



Cab Storage Lockers



Panniers & Axles



Inside Trailer Load



Examples of Cut Tilt Cords

Tilt cords are used to secure soft-sided trailers. Criminals cut these to allow access to the trailer. They are then pinned, glued or taped back together to make it look like they have not been interfered with.



What Can You Do to Prevent Illegal Immigrants?

To reduce the risk of receiving a financial penalty from the UK Border Agency, make sure that you read and follow the guidance contained in these UK Border Agency documents:

- ***Prevention of Clandestine Entrants: Code of Practice***
- ***How to Avoid a Penalty*** (10 step guidance for drivers)
- ***Secure, Check, Record*** (vehicle security checklist)

In addition to the above, follow this simple advice to reduce the risk of your lorry being targeted by illegal immigrants:

Loading of Trailer

- **Check the trailer all over for any damage**
- **Repair any damage and record it on your vehicle checklist**
- **Carry out a full inspection of the Tilt cord**
- **Make sure the Tilt cord is correctly fitted**
- **Seal and/or padlock the Tilt cord**
- **Record all security checks you make at the start of your journey on your checklist, noting the seal number**
- **Make sure the load is tightly packed with no spaces, or leave enough space between items to allow for inspection**

Driver Rest Stops

- **Make sure you schedule your rest stops as far away from the Calais ferry terminal as possible**
- **When you return from a break, carry out a full inspection**
- **Check underneath the chassis on both sides of the trailer**
- **Check the toolbox, cab storage lockers, etc**
- **Note these inspections on your vehicle checklist**

Approaching Calais

- When passing through the security checkpoints, notify UK Border Officers of any new damage that has appeared since loading your trailer

PARKING IN NORTHERN FRANCE

People smugglers and illegal immigrants will target lorries which they believe are travelling to the UK.

They will enter lorries in parking areas on the motorway which ***FACE THE DIRECTION*** of Calais and Dunkirk ports (and the northbound E40 in Belgium).

An effective way to deter these illegal immigrants is to ***PARK YOUR LORRY FACING AWAY*** from the port on the ***OTHER SIDE OF THE MOTORWAY***.

This will make it look like you are travelling away from the UK, not towards it. Although it may take you a few minutes longer to park this way, it may make you less vulnerable to illegal immigrants and less likely to receive a financial penalty from UK Border Agency.



NOTE TO DRIVERS

This information booklet has been produced to help you understand the threat you face from criminals and illegal immigrants while driving to the UK.

However, being in possession of this booklet does not prove that you have followed the necessary security procedures to prevent illegal immigrants.

If you are found with illegal immigrants inside your lorry by UK Border Officers, being in possession of this booklet will not effect UK Border Agency's decision to issue a financial penalty or to take further action.

REMEMBER!

1. If you suspect illegal immigrants are on board your lorry, you should report this to the French Police / Port Search Authorities immediately (*telephone numbers are displayed in French motorway rest areas*)
2. You should also notify any incidents involving illegal immigrants to UK Border Officers before final boarding at Calais, Dunkirk or Coquelles ports

UK Border Agency documents and advice can be found at

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/transportindustry/vehicleoperators/

or by calling UK Border Agency on **0044 (0)20 8745 6006**

