



11 April 2022

Safety Reminder: Safe Securing of Cargo

There continues to be incidents of heavy cargo falling or being dislodged while being transported on trailers or trucks. See pictures below.



Figure 1: Cargo dislodged while negotiating a bend



Figure 2: Cargo lopsided due to improper securing of cargo



Figure 3: Cargo dislodged while negotiating a bend



Don't let accidents from falling cargo cause injuries, business disruptions and project delays.

Adopt the following measures to secure, contain and restrain the cargo to prevent them from shifting or falling off.

Companies should:

- Provide the right vehicles and equipment for the type of cargo to be handled and transported.
- Establish a vehicle and/or equipment maintenance and repair schedule.
- Train employees on the relevant knowledge and skills necessary for their jobs.
- Implement a risk management system to identify and control risks at work.
- Establish a reporting system for employees to report on unsafe, damaged and/or compromised equipment, parts, and/or vehicles.

Managers and supervisors should:

- Instruct operators on the safe use and operation of equipment and vehicle.
- Ensure that vehicles and equipment are sent for timely maintenance and repair.
- Perform a thorough risk assessment for each operation and communicate it to the relevant personnel.
- Conduct safety briefing before work commences or at the beginning of each shift.
- Plan delivery routes prior to work deployment.

Operators should:

- Adhere to safe work procedures and instructions at all times.
- Check and ensure all cargo securing equipment and devices used are in good working conditions.
- Conduct a visual inspection to ensure all cargo have been properly lashed, restrained and/or contained before moving off.
- Report any unsafe condition or damaged or compromised equipment and vehicle.

While driving on the roads, drivers should:

- Slow down when negotiating a bend as cargo may shift due to centrifugal force.
- Check on rear/side mirrors regularly to see if there are loose canvas sheets or ropes which may entangle moving vehicles or infrastructures e.g., traffic light poles and lampposts. When this happens, drivers should take note to:
 - a) turn on the hazard lights;
 - b) slow down and drive safely to the side of the road and stop the vehicle at a safe spot (or road shoulder on expressway);
 - c) Tighten the loose canvas sheets or ropes before proceeding.

For more information, you may also refer to the following:

- SS 663: 2020 Code of practice for safe loading on vehicles
- [Workplace Safety and Health Guidelines on Safe Loading on Vehicles](#)

A joint reminder by the Container Depot and Logistics Association (Singapore), SAAA@Singapore, Singapore Logistics Association, Singapore Transport Association, Land Transport Authority, and the Workplace Safety and Health Council.