Truck drivers are particularly at risk during incidents of cargo theft. In 20% of such incidents the driver is physically assaulted. This can result in bodily injury and emotional stress. They not infrequently have to fear for life and limb. Protect yourself against these dangers.

Reduce the risks from the outset by adhering to the following simple code of conduct and by taking the following action:

**Head for secure parking areas**
Most assaults take place when vehicles are stationary. Easily accessible and badly-lit parking areas make it easier for criminals, especially when there is little activity in the area. Therefore you should only make use of secure parking areas. These provide the following benefits:
- Parking areas and slip roads are fenced in and lit.
- Such areas are monitored by surveillance cameras and patrolled by security guards.
- Vehicles arriving at the entrance are checked and documented.

There is often a shortage of such secure parking areas. Therefore it is just as important to adopt certain modes of behaviour in your daily routine. This applies both during rest periods and whilst driving.

**Important action to take before you leave your truck:**

As soon as the vehicle is stationary you should ensure that you...
- do not leave any valuables on show in the cab.
- check the vehicle for any security defects after each stop, such as faulty locks and bolts and make a note of any defects you spot. If possible remedy them there and then; however at any rate you should inform your dispatcher.
- lock the windows and the truck, not only when you are sleeping but at any time when you are away from your truck, and keep the key with you at all times.
- do not let strangers into your vehicle without permission.

**Important modes of behaviour when you are driving:**

Assaults can also occur when you are driving. By staging professionally planned situations, criminals attempt to get the truck to stop and then hijack it. Here too you can take precautionary action:
- Be warned if other road users conspicuously point out purported vehicle defects. Notify your control centre and then wait for further instructions. If you then leave your vehicle, remember to activate all anti-theft systems beforehand.
- You need to be cautious if people, who claim to be police officers or other officials, pull you over. Check their IDs. Even officials checking documents have accept enquiries submitted to the stations or offices where they are based.
- Do not talk in public or via CB radio about haulage assignment details, such as what cargo you are carrying or your planned route.
- Avoid short routine stops to buy cigarettes or newspapers, for example. Sort these things out before you set off on your journey.

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**The “dual-control principle”**

Once you have reached your destination, always remember the “dual-control principle”. When delivering consignments of goods the delivery receipt has to be signed by you and the consignee. If necessary contact your control centre to check the delivery note and the haulage contract.
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