Cargo thefts cause billions of euros worth of losses every year. Consequential losses can often have an even more serious impact on companies. Missing deliveries can lead to manufacturing disruption and customers cancelling orders. The damage to a company’s image is enormous.

You can proactively limit the risk of loss by taking the following organisational and technical action.

**Proactively reduce the risk of theft at all operational levels!**

**Use suitable vehicles**
- Suitable vehicles with appropriate security systems should be used to match the type of cargo carried and the route. Regular fleet maintenance ensures that trucks are safe and roadworthy. Safety checks are recommended immediately before drivers set off on assignments, to avoid the risk of technical defects when they are on the road.

**Avoid organisational security gaps**
- New employees need to be recruited with care, based on references, criminal record certificates and credit references. A prior credit check on new sub-contractors is also imperative. Practical experience shows that it is advisable to repeat such checks on all transport companies and customers at regular intervals.
- Security/safety clearance grades for employees can be determined as part of the driver scheduling process. Such action can for example ensure that only drivers, who have been properly trained to meet such stringent security requirements, transport high-value goods.

**Ensure information flows**
- Security and working instructions can only be effective if people are aware of and comply with them. Consequently the appropriate flow of information needs to be ensured. That applies equally to dispatchers as regards the choice of mode of transport and haulage partner and to handling incoming and outgoing goods or to action to be taken in an emergency. It is advisable to check compliance with existing guidelines at irregular intervals and if necessary remedy any shortcomings that occur.

**Safeguard confidential information**
- Disclosure of transportation information to unauthorised third parties and their access to confidential information are one of the main reasons for cargo thefts. IT working instructions should therefore be issued to govern access to and disclosure of this information. Not every employee needs to know everything. The appointment of a data protection officer is advisable and useful in this respect. Protecting corporate IT networks against viruses, trojans and access by unauthorised persons is also strongly recommended.

**Secure company premises**
- Data misuse is also facilitated by unauthorised persons easily gaining access to company premises. This can be remedied by setting up pedestrian and vehicle access checks, provided company premises are fenced in and are sufficiently well-lit in the evening and at night. The use of magnetic keys, chip cards and transponders makes these procedures easier. Video surveillance as well as staff in the gatehouse or at reception can be effectively integrated into your security system.

**Informing the client**

More security does not necessarily have to entail more expense. However in such cases additional costs cannot be avoided. If a client resists such measures, you should talk to him about limiting your liability. Existing security concerns should always be communicated openly. After all there is not only a lot of money at stake but the safety of your own drivers is also of paramount importance.
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