Given that you work as a professional driver for your employer, you have a range of options to substantially reduce the risk of theft and assault. You are therefore not only safeguarding the cargo and vehicle for which you are responsible but also defending your own life if the worst comes to the worst.

Before setting out on your assignment you should take the following security precautions:

- Check your vehicle to make sure the security equipment, such as locks, bolts, anti-theft devices etc., works properly.
- Report any faults or defects immediately.
- Always compare the cargo documentation with the cargo list and the quantity of packing units.
- Loading, closure, sealing or cargo documentation irregularities must be reported immediately.
- Keep the cargo documentation in a safe place.
- Make sure you purchase all the items you need, e.g. beverages, food, cigarettes, newspapers etc., before setting out on your assignment.
- Update your key telephone numbers (police, forwarder, consulates etc.) and keep them to hand at all times.

Take the following security action when en route:

- Always remove the key from the ignition and close all windows and all the cab and cargo space doors when you leave your vehicle.
- Even if you are just buying something at a petrol station or delivering a consignment to a customer – do not leave your vehicle unattended and when you take a break head for a well-lit, security-guarded parking area, if possible. The following criteria enable you to judge whether a parking area is secure. It features:
  - Fencing with anti-climb details and lighting
  - Parking bays and slip roads with lighting
  - Video surveillance
  - Vehicle and pedestrian access controls
  - Security guards on patrol
  - Do not leave valuables on show in your cab.
- Maintain visual contact with your vehicle as far as possible if you have to leave it.
- Lock all windows and doors when sleeping in your cab.
- If possible park your vehicle up against a wall or other immovable object to prevent access to the rear doors.
- Never take hitchhikers or other strangers with you in your vehicle.
- When you take a break, never speak with strangers about your route and destination or what cargo you are carrying! Apparently trivial conversations could prove to be a valuable source of information for the "opposition".
- After each longer stop, check your vehicle and your cargo.
- Agree set times and set places with your employer or principal, at which and from where you should regularly report in.
- If your vehicle breaks down, consider the possibility of sabotage and treat any unsolicited offers of free assistance from strangers with caution.
- Always contact your employer or principal if there are unforeseen changes to your route or to the delivery address!
- Drivers are frequently intercepted shortly before they reach the delivery address. You are told that the goods cannot be accepted at the specified address at that particular time. Your truck is then rerouted somewhere else, and you are at the absolute mercy of these criminals.
- Ensure that the person who takes delivery of the goods is authorised to do so! Check this against the transportation documents and get an acknowledgement of receipt of goods.
- Make a note of the appearance and distinguishing features/registration numbers of suspicious persons and vehicles. Report what you see to the police.
- Even if you are pulled over by people, who appear to be police officers, you should always request to see their ID. They have to accept enquiries being made to the police station where they are based. Drivers can be provided with appropriate samples (also for foreign countries) when their routes are being planned.
- Never leave your semi-trailer/trailer unsecured (kingpin lock, anti-theft device etc.).
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