

Cargo Tips:

Fictitious Cargo Pickups

Developing and following a plan of action for shipment pickups is essential to prevent cargo theft.

Contact Us

Chubb Marine policyholders have access to the expertise and guidance of our Marine Risk Management Specialists.

Have a question?
Email us at MarineRiskUS@chubb.com.

For more information on Chubb's Inland Marine and cargo solutions, visit www.chubb.com/us/cargo.

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Criminals have used innumerable schemes over the years to illegally take possession of goods in transit. In some cases, they have presented fake identification or counterfeit bills of lading and other shipping documentation to gain possession of a shipment that does not belong to them. In other cases, cyber criminals have even managed to steal the identities of trucking companies that were lawfully contracted to carry goods for a shipper. Additionally, some criminals have successfully set up “paper” trucking companies, complete with insurance and operating authority to carry out their schemes.¹

Given the sophistication and experience of the perpetrators, there is not a single, foolproof prevention method for this kind of risk. However, following a focused and layered security approach is the best way to minimize your exposure.

Chubb’s Marine Risk Management specialists are pleased to provide the following tips to help prevent you from falling victim to fraud:

- Vet all trucking companies thoroughly. Request and verify at least 3 references. Confirm the selected companies have had operating authority for at least one year.
- Request a copy of the trucking companies’ certificates of insurance directly from the insurance company itself; this will ensure the documents are valid. When reviewing submitted documents, check for variations in font, spelling, logos, email addresses, and even contact information that is listed.
- Cross-check all the information submitted. Confirm the validity of the company’s address via Google and other public resources.
- Do not allow shipment loads to be double brokered without your consent.
- Entrust high value shipments only to companies whose documentation has been cleared and approved by you.
- Require the trucking company to send you the name of the driver, a copy of their driver’s license, and the license plate numbers of the truck and trailer associated with your shipment.
- Share shipment load information on a need-to-know basis only.
- Place security cameras at the location where drivers submit paperwork.
- Require drivers to remove sunglasses and/or hats when picking up loads.
- Validate all driver’s licenses, using app technology, like SCANNR, when drivers arrive for pickup. Scan a copy for your records.
- Consider installing a fingerprint recorder to collect the prints of all drivers picking up at your facility

¹CargoNet, April 13, 2020

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