

Safety Alert

Incident

Issued: 4/03/2021

HS-SAL-21-087

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Security Class: PowerNet Employees Only

Securing Vehicle Load

The purpose of this safety alert is to remind all drivers of their responsibilities to ensure vehicle loads are secured prior to travel and remain secured for the duration of the journey.

Unsecured loads have the potential to shift in transit decreasing vehicle stability, particularly in braking or cornering resulting in the driver losing control of the vehicle, or result in the loss of cargo posing a risk of harming members of the public.



Images: Good PowerNet examples of load security

What we all need to do:

- All drivers of vehicles are responsible for ensuring:
 - External loads are securely stowed and held prior to moving the vehicle.
 - All fastenings used to secure loads are fit for purpose and inspected prior to use.
 - Any loose items such as bolts, washers and nuts etc. must be stowed in the appropriate compartment or storage bins.
 - If the vehicle or trailer does not have sufficient storage facilities for securing loose items another method must be adopted such as, using a tarpaulin or cargo net that is securely tied down.
 - When traveling longer distances, stop frequently to check the cargo.
 - Internal loads are securely stowed – in the event of an accident these can become deadly missiles harming the vehicle occupants. Some examples of internal loads that need to be securely stored include laptops, tablets, torches and crane remote controls.
 - Trailers are inspected prior to travel, and trailer loads are secured.
 - All transported loads do not exceed the specifications of the vehicle or trailer.
- Staff who load vehicles or trailers also have the responsibility to ensure the load is secured.

For further information please follow the below links to relevant NZ legislation and guidance documents.

- [NZTA - Guide to safe loading and towing for light vehicles](#)
- [NZTA - The official New Zealand truck loading code](#)
- [Failure to secure load NZ Land Transport Act 1998 Section 42:](#)
- [SM-EI Rule 2.901 \(c\) \(vi\)](#)

HSE Team have provided all identified external and internal interested parties with this Safety Alert.

NOTE: HSE Team are the only authority to release and circulate this Safety Alert.

Approved by: SLT Member – Justin Peterson – No
Sign

Approved by: Phil Johnson – HSE Manager
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