

Safe loading and transport

CHASAC Information sheet 3

Introduction

This sheet is produced to provide simple guidance on the loading of cast metal products for transport. It outlines some of the measures you should take and the key points to consider when loading and transporting cast products. It is aimed at employers, employees, and their representatives.

Background

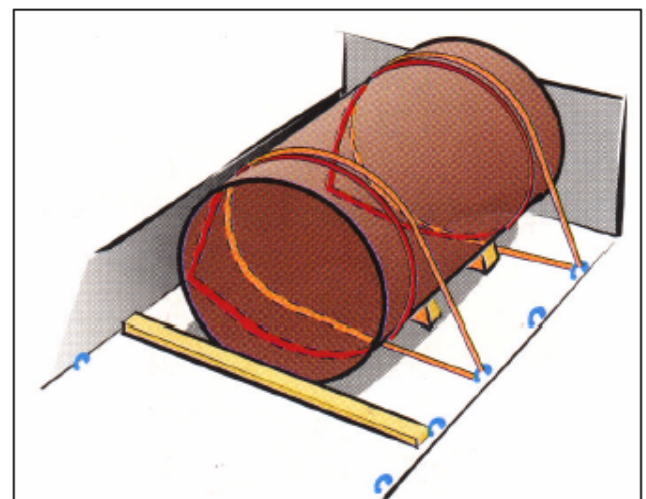
Unsafe loads on vehicles injure more than 1,200 people a year and cost UK businesses millions of pounds in damaged goods. Unrestrained loads can increase the risk of vehicle rollover and load spillage, and risk the life of the driver and other road users.



The headboard is a critical part of the load securing system. Loading above the height of the headboard or leaving a gap between the load and the headboard can endanger the driver of the vehicle and other road users. If the load cannot be loaded to the headboard use blocking or filler materials.

2. Loads should not move independently of the trailer.

All loads should be suitably restrained. Load **containment** (stopping the load from being ejected from the trailer) is not the same as load **restraint**. The principal methods of restraint are; **locking; blocking; direct lashing; top-over lashing and, a combination of these.**



Metal tube restrained with base blocking and lashing

What can you do to reduce the risk?

1. Always load to the headboard if you can.

3. Curtains should not be used for load securing.

The curtains of a curtain-sided vehicle are for weather protection and they should not be used to contain the load.

Even if the load does not fall off in transit, it could fall when the curtain is opened.

4. Lashings should not be secured to rope hooks.

Rope hooks are there to tie down a tarpaulin, they are not rated for load securing. Appropriate attachment points should be used.



Further reading and information

- HSE Load Safety website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/loadsafty/index.htm>
- [Department of Transport – safety of loads on vehicles](#)
- Workplace transport safety – An employers guide at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg136.htm>

This information sheet is one of a series of information sheets developed by the Castings Health and Safety Advisory Committee (CHASAC).

The guidance may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law

CHASAC Information Sheet 3

01/15



Appropriately rated lashing eyelet

5. Webbing straps are vulnerable to damage.

Straps should be checked regularly for damage. Even a small tear can reduce the strength of the strap significantly. Protectors or sleeves should be used if they are being used on loads which are sharp or have rough edges.

6. Loads should be planned and recorded.

The load plan and other relevant information should go with the load for the driver and the appropriate people at the delivery site.