

Unsecured cargo inside containers

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Two incidents are highlighted here in which cargo was damaged because it was not properly secured.

Incident 1

A member has reported an incident in which cargo weighing 1.5 tonnes was damaged during transportation when it was returned to the supplier by road. The cargo was placed unsecured within a half-height container and was allowed to move freely. Whilst the damage was minor, the incident highlighted several very serious issues that posed a risk to the truck driver, the truck, as well as other road vehicles and pedestrians.

- The truck could have become unstable due to the shifting load affecting handling and braking.
- This situation could have caused damage to the strops used to secure the half height container to the truck leading to a lost load.

A finding in this case was that there had been a breakdown in communication between the lifting crew, a third-party technician and the truck driver, which led to a failure to secure the load within the container.

Action

- Ensure that any cargo or equipment is confirmed to be adequately secured for transfer before it is lifted.
- Ensure good communication between those responsible for the cargo, lifting teams, and transportation teams ashore.
- Ensure that it is clearly understood who has responsibility for confirming the security of equipment when it is lifted in containers.

Incident 2

Step Change UK reports an incident in which an unsecured motor in a cargo carrying unit (CCU) fell to deck as it was being secured. No-one was harmed but the motor, which weighed 95 kg, was extensively damaged.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Safe mechanical lifting



Bypassing safety controls

When opened, a CCU was found to be a shelved unit containing two palletised blower motors each weighing 95 kg – one on the lower level and the other on the shelf. It was intended to remove only the lower motor and send the second (upper) motor back onshore for reloading. The upper motor was not secure and moves were made to secure it before back loading. As crew climbed onto the shelf in attempts to secure the motor, its pallet shifted and tipped forward. The motor fell from height onto the deck, causing extensive damage to the motor. No one was injured during the incident, but had there been crew in the way, this could have resulted in serious personal injury.



Action

Members may wish to refer to the following incidents (search words: *cargo, unsecured*):

- Loading and securing of containers
- Loading and securing of cargo

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