

PHILLIPS

Qwik Tech Tips

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FEATURED PRODUCT

King Pin Lock

- Rugged cast iron construction
- Powder coated for corrosion protection
- Bright orange color makes lock visible to operator
- Multiple orders can be keyed alike upon request



Is Your Cargo Safe?

According to The International Cargo Security Council, cargo theft costs the United States \$60 billion per year. Cargo theft has been around for centuries, from robbers attacking merchants on trading roads, to pirates seizing ships at sea, to bandits on horseback robbing stagecoaches. Today, trucks have replaced horse-drawn carriages, and unfortunately, crime has evolved along with cargo transportation methods.

Understanding the way cargo thieves plan and accomplish their attacks can help drivers protect themselves against such crimes.

Thieves may pay drivers at rest stops or fueling stations to give up their trucks, or wait until the driver has left the truck and trailer unattended. Thieves are knowledgeable and trained in gaining access to the truck and manipulating the ignition system. They then drive off with the stolen equipment.

If a trailer is not connected to a truck, often referred to as dropped or unattended, the thieves hook up their recently acquired stolen tractor to the loaded trailer and move it to a secured location. When it comes to protecting shipments from theft, businesses and drivers have an arsenal of tools at their disposal from high-tech tracking and monitoring equipment to basic intrusion prevention. These devices and technologies, combined with common-sense security practices, can help thwart cargo thieves.

Take Action:

Use of high-tech prevention tools: Create an electronic data trail. For example, with GPS tracking the vehicle's location can be determined.

Use low-tech theft prevention tools: A variety of locks are available to secure the vehicle and its cargo.

These include:

King Pin locks: These locks are installed on the king

pin of a de-coupled trailer and prevent another tractor from coupling with the trailer.

Gladhand locks: These locks are placed on the gladhands of a truck, locking the airlines and keeping the brake from releasing.



Implementing common-sense security practices: Regardless of what security devices or systems you decide to use, no single method can prevent cargo theft and should be combined with common-sense security measures.

• **Stay alert:** Be aware of possible surveillance being conducted on your tractor/trailer and/or facility's operation. Watch for signs such as unknown vehicles parked outside or within view of the facility; individuals holding cameras or taking notes outside your facility.

• **Respond:** Immediately report all suspicious activity and/or theft to management and law enforcement officials.

• **Management information:** Do not share information on cargo or procedures with anyone not involved in the operation.

• **Execute basic safety practices:** Keep trucks locked and park them in an organized manner or well-lit facility lot. Communicate to driver teams that one person must remain with the vehicle at all times.

*Information gathered from the following articles:
The Cargo Theft Threat by Jared S. Palmer (January 2010) & Lock, Stock, and Barrel: How Secure Is Your Cargo? By Bill Anderson (March 2009)*



- According to The International Cargo Security Council, cargo theft costs the United States \$60 billion per year.
- Understanding the way cargo thieves plan and accomplish their attacks can help drivers protect themselves against such crimes.
- Use high-tech prevention tools, such as GPS, and low-tech prevention tools, such as king pin and gladhand locks, to help keep cargo safe.
- Use common sense security practices by staying alert of your surroundings, responding to suspicious activity, exchanging information with only those who need to know, and executing basic safety practices.

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