

Loader

You are responsible for loading and securing the load so that it is safe under normal driving conditions.

Your management should tell you how the load should be placed onto the trailer and secured. If the driver of the vehicle is present while you are loading, take note of any concerns he has and, if necessary, involve your supervisor if the driver feels the load is not loaded safely.

When loading:

- The load should be placed against the headboard if possible or, if there is a gap, an intermediate bulkhead should be fitted or blocking or dunnage used to fill the gap to prevent the load sliding forward;
- The load should be loaded so its weight is distributed evenly across the trailer; If the load is stacked, or if you are loading a double-deck trailer, the heaviest items should be at the bottom with the lighter items at the top;
- The load should be secured to prevent it sliding or toppling once the vehicle is on the road. The curtain of a curtain-sided vehicle is not strong enough to secure the load;
- If the trailer is to be transported by sea the load may require extra securing;
- Load restraints such as bars, chains and straps should be in good condition;
- On curtain-sided trailers and flatbeds, webbing straps and/or chains should be secured either directly to the vehicle chassis or to rated attachment points. Rope hooks should not be used as attachment points;
- Straps and chains should not be used in the same assembly;
- If you decide to use an unusual method of load securing, make sure the driver is aware of what you have done. It may be helpful for you to draw a sketch;
- Do not assume that the weight of the load will hold it in place. Even heavy loads can shift.