

# MAKING SENSE OF SECURITY SEALS

## WHY USE THEM?

Cargo theft is a lucrative business.

The average value per cargo theft in 2021 was \$172,340 according to CargoNet® reports.

One low-cost option to help prevent theft is a security seal.

## WHAT SEAL SHOULD I USE?

The degree that a trailer or cargo container is secured depends on the value and nature of the commodity being shipped (e.g., food). Security seals are categorized into 3 levels: High Security, Security, and Indicative.

<b>H</b> HIGH SECURITY	<b>S</b> SECURITY	<b>I</b> INDICATIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highest tensile strength (&gt;10kN)</li><li>• 1/8" diameter or thicker cable seals and bolt seals</li><li>• Removed with cable or bolt cutter</li><li>• C-TPAT compliant</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medium tensile strength (&gt;2.27kN - &lt;10 kN)</li><li>• Cable seals with smaller than 1/8" diameter</li><li>• Removed with cable cutter or snips</li><li>• Not C-TPAT compliant</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lowest tensile strength (&lt;2.27kN)</li><li>• Plastic and metal strap seals</li><li>• Remove by hand or with simple cutting tools</li><li>• Not C-TPAT compliant</li></ul>

**C-TPAT (Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism)** is a voluntary government-business initiative designed to strengthen and improve international supply chain and U.S. border security. Motor carriers who participate in the C-TPAT program are required to secure cargo with an ISO 17712.2013 high-security seal.

## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON SEAL APPLICATIONS?



Truck/Ocean/Rail Transport



Container Storage/Inventory



High-Value Loads



Agriculture/Food



Petrochemical



Warehouse/Storage



Manufacturing/Industrial

## WHAT ARE THE DRIVER'S RESPONSIBILITIES FROM SHIPPER TO RECEIVER?

### PICKING UP THE LOAD

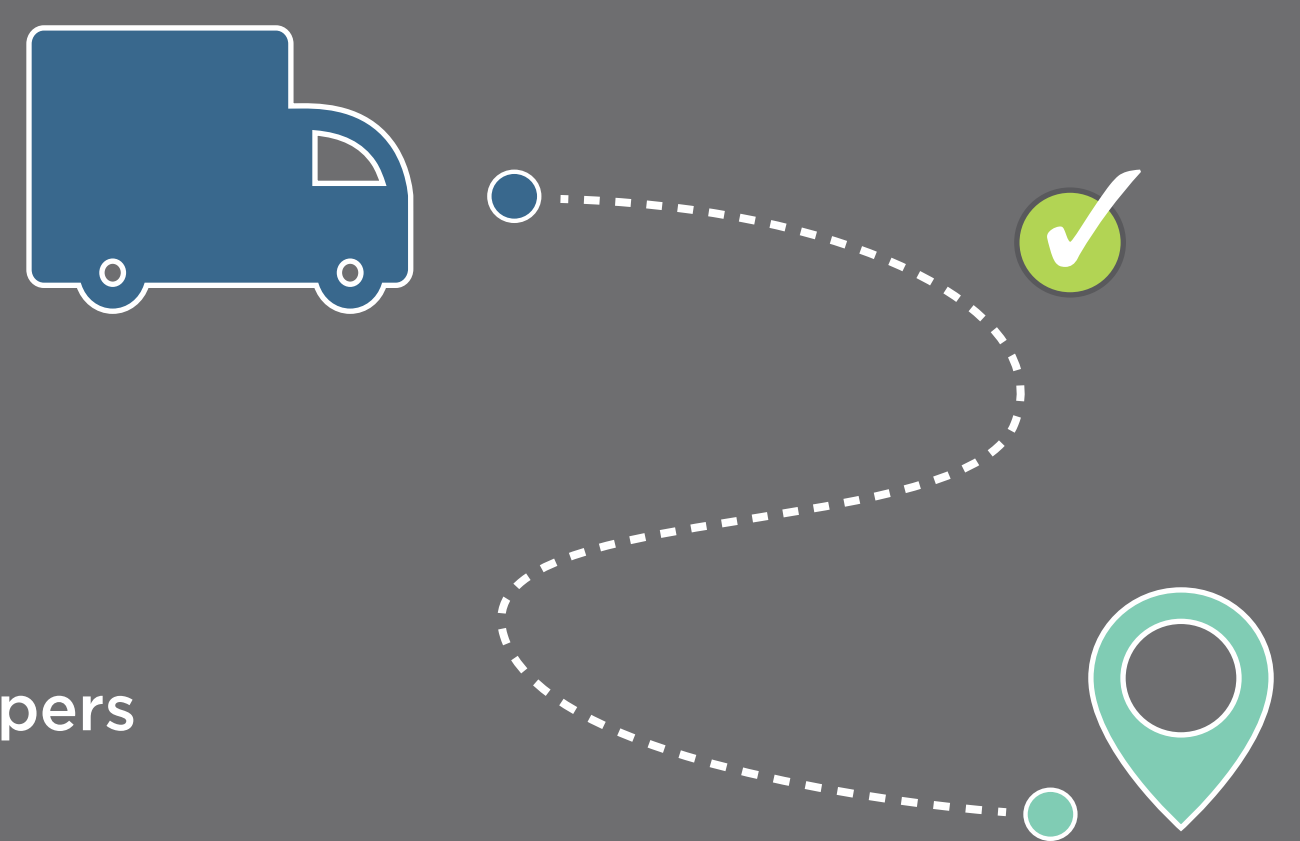
- Compare the contents of the container against the shipping papers before attaching the seal
- Note the seal number on the shipping paper

### EN ROUTE

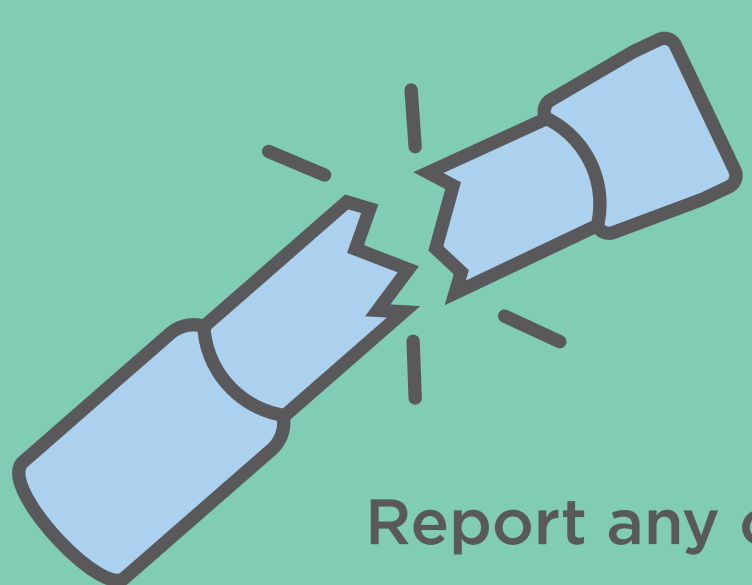
- Check the condition of the seal at every stop

### DELIVERING THE LOAD

- Compare the seal number(s) against the shipping papers
- Note if seal(s) have been broken or tampered with
- Report any broken seals to safety



## SIGNS OF A COMPROMISED SEAL INCLUDE:



- **DETACHED** bolts
- **DIFFERENT BRANDS** of seals attached
- **ALTERED** bolt or hasp
- **ALTERED** seal numbers
- **ALTERED SEALS** that allow them to be **UNSCREWED**

Report any compromised seals, save the broken seal(s), and note the seal number(s) as being damaged/tampered with

## BOTTOM LINE

You can help prevent cargo theft by selecting the right security seal for the job and training your drivers to be observant.

