

Criminal Intelligence Service Austria warns against smuggling gangs

Safety advice for truck drivers

The international freight transportation is misused increasingly by smuggling gangs and migrants to reach illegally the destination countries in Europe.

The migrants usually enter the cargo hold with the help of smugglers. This is done by

- cutting the customs cords and piece back together
- cutting the tarpaulins, mostly on the top side.

In the same way, migrants who are travelling without smugglers take advantage of ride-on trucks, semitrailers or other transport vehicles. In doing so, they not only gain access by damaging the tarpaulin, they also use every possible hollow on the vehicle or trailer to hide for crossing the border.

Observe the following safety instructions ...

... before departure

- Check the vehicle and cargo for irregularities when you take it over.
- Load the cargo without spaces.
- Watch out for any changes or damage on the tarpaulin, especially on the top side.
- Check the entire customs cord and the affixed seals for manipulation.

... during breaks and parking

- When break times permit, park away from border areas and only in well-lit parking areas.
- Avoid unnecessary parking along the route.
- Watch out for movement around your vehicle during waiting times at the border.
- Re-check the customs cord, the seal, the tarpaulin and the locks for damage after each break. Tighten, especially the customs cord, as it will always stick after cutting.
- Also check the hollows under the vehicle, the wind deflectors, the storage boxes, the axles and the luggage compartments.

... in suspicious situations

- Take care of yourself first.
- Do not defend the vehicle by no means.
- Call the international emergency number 112 from a distance.
- In case of suspicious perceptions, contact around the clock (24/7) the hotline of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria +43 677 61343434.

Possible hiding places

