



LOADING OF VEHICLES - SAFE LOADING POLICY

In line with Freightlink Europe's commitment to health and safety and to respect current regulations, it is Company policy that all vehicles are loaded safely and securely and in compliance with the maximum weight restrictions in place for the particular vehicle and individual axles. It is Company policy always to avoid overloading and to promote vehicle and load safety. Such a policy requires commitment at all levels, from all employees, customers and loading staff alike. Drivers and customers are made aware of the policy and required to comply with the same and to advise any related parties.

Drivers are required, where possible, to ensure that consignments are fit for transport and can be transported safely, without damage. All consignments, without exception, must be secured to the bed of the vehicle. Consignment weights must be verified to ensure that the vehicle is loaded in compliance with not only the maximum laden weight of the vehicle, but individual axle weight restrictions. Where a driver feels that the load is not safe or fit for transport or that vehicle or axles are overloaded, he/she must not proceed, but contact the Transport Office immediately and prior to commencing any journey. If possible, vehicles should be checked on a weighbridge for weight accuracy. If in doubt, drivers should telephone the office for assistance and never take an overloaded vehicle on the road.

Customers are required to ensure work can be carried out in a safe working environment. They are required to provide accurate gross consignment weights and to load vehicles such that maximum axle and vehicle weights are not exceeded. Consignments should be sufficiently packaged to withstand transport and be able to be transported safely. Where drivers are unable to supervise loading customers must ensure that all goods are strapped to the bed of the vehicle, and any gaps are filled. Drivers must be allowed to check the load prior to leaving the customer's premises. **Double deck vehicles:** Unless the customer has carried out its own risk assessment and a copy of the same has been provided to Freightlink Europe, only light goods (less than 400 kgs) should be loaded on the top deck of double deck vehicles. Goods should be securely strapped to pallets and the load form a positive fit.

Where drivers are working for a dedicated customer and are not able or present to supervise loading, drivers must be provided with a loading plan.

Drivers and Customers are required to abide by the Department for Transport Approved Code of Practice for security of goods on vehicles: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-of-loads-on-vehicles-code-of-practice>

General safety - bridges: Freightlink Europe operational staff, drivers and customers are required to work collaboratively in order to ensure the safety of our vehicles, drivers and general public on the roads. Drivers are required to abide instructions contained in the Freightlink Europe Safe Operational Process Sheet for the prevention of bridge strikes and customers are required to advise our transport office of any low bridges in the immediate vicinity of their collection/delivery points. Vehicle/trailer standard height and widths should never be exceeded without agreement with Freightlink Europe transport office in order to facilitate the forward planning.

In view of the importance of this policy and regulations, any employee found not to be respecting the same shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Company's disciplinary procedure.

By working with employees and customers alike, the Freightlink Europe seeks to ensure the safety of its employees, clients and the general public and to preserve the Freightlink Europe and customer brand and image.

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Lesley O'Brien
Director

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Kevin O'Brien
Director