



## Inspection of Road Vehicles

As well as seagoing inspections on vessels, there is a requirement to carry out inspections on road going vehicles. These risks are not as apparent as those at sea but can be just as dangerous.

### 1. Safe Positioning of Vehicles

- 1.1 Wherever possible, Officers should work in pairs when carrying out inspections of vehicles. If this is not possible, awareness of surroundings should be uppermost and caution must be taken
- 1.2 Inspectors must be alert to movements of other vehicles in the vicinity and should make their presence known to appropriate personnel. High visibility clothing and protective non-slip footwear must be worn during the activity. Hard hats must also be worn where required.
- 1.3 When approaching a vehicle for inspection, do not approach directly from the front or rear in case the driver does not see you or does not wish to be inspected.
- 1.4 Officers should inform the driver that the cargo is to be inspected and request that the vehicle remains stationary and must not be moved.
- 1.5 For a detailed inspection, the vehicle should be parked, where possible, in a location away from a live traffic route and where access can be achieved safely. Officers must assess if the inspection can be conducted safely. The vehicle may be required to move to another location for safety reasons.

### 2. Inspection of Vehicle

- 2.1 The driver of the vehicle should be asked to open the rear doors, and officers should ensure they stand clear in case the cargo has shifted whilst in transit. After the inspection, the driver should be informed of completion. The security of the load and door closing is the responsibility of the driver.
- 2.2 Officers must ensure that the doors are secured open before attempting to enter the cargo space, and refrigerated vehicles must be allowed to ventilate before entering.
- 2.3 Vehicle storage compartment access points should not overhang water or live traffic lanes. The driver should be requested to move the vehicle to a location where safe access is possible.
- 2.4 Vehicle storage compartments have cold temperature conditions and suitable clothing, such as warm gloves and upper body wear, should be worn. Where possible, the driver should be requested to ensure that the vehicle refrigeration fan unit is not operating. Underfoot conditions should be noted and suitable footwear with adequate tread should be worn.

- 2.5 Officers should enter, and move around, the cargo space with care as there may be ice or slime on both the bumper bar and cargo space floor. Officers should also be aware of badly stacked or displaced boxes or containers. The driver should be asked to “make safe” such areas and ensure lights are switched on before inspectors enter the cargo space.
- 2.6 Where fish boxes have to be moved, the activity should be carried out using two person lifting unless the box has been assessed for acceptable one person lifting.
- 2.7 Working on the edge of flat bed wagons should be avoided wherever possible. Officers should be aware of the danger if working on the body edge is required.
- 2.8 Inspections at night, or in areas/premises with poor visibility, should be undertaken with care. There is an increased risk of slips, trips and falls, collision with moving vehicles and cuts from equipment whilst visibility is low.
- 2.9 Officers should request the inspection to be carried out in areas with a better light source and where protected from any traffic movements. If this is not possible then torches should be made available for Inspectors use in areas of poor visibility.
- 2.10 After completion of the load inspection, care should be taken when alighting the vehicle, using hand and footholds where possible. The foot landing area should be free of obstacles.