



The freight of the world: Securing modern supply chains



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Introduction

Contributors



Morten Krohn Sommer Mikkelsen
Head of Solutions Offering
Securitas Europe



Dieter Blommaerts
Director of Standardized Solutions
Securitas Europe



Rhian Woolrych
Global Sales Director
Securitas Europe



Olle Lindskog
Global SOC Director
Securitas Operations Centers

Major trends like e-commerce are driving record levels of demand and growth for transport and logistics companies, creating an era of immense opportunity. Every day millions of goods move across borders, enabling trade and commerce and sustaining economies both local and global. But as supply chains expand, so do the risks. Transport and logistics companies are facing an unprecedented surge in demand and with it, new security challenges that call for innovative solutions.

Today's socio-economic and geo-political conditions are intensifying traditional risks in the transport sector such as theft and loss. Regulatory requirements are growing with Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA) providing valuable guidelines, but equally setting comprehensive security standards to ensure secure transportation and storage of high-value theft-targeted cargo.

Sustainability and the drive to Net Zero is also a major backdrop for businesses globally. The transport industry is understandably one of the most impacted, with an ever increasing need to reduce its carbon footprint.

Given the complex landscape for transport and logistics firms, sophisticated, end-to-end transport security is not only necessary for getting cargo efficiently from A to B but can be used to improve the sustainability of operations, to enhance the experience of vital workers, and maintain business reputation.



Rising theft demands smarter security

TAPA revealed in their TAPA Intelligence System (TIS) EMEA July report that €523,188 had been lost per day in July to cargo theft - the true figure is much higher as only 5% of the crimes reported included a value. 1,736 instances of new crimes were reported to the TIS database within the month.

Driven by inflation and the cost-of-living crisis, a **third**¹ of freight hijacking instances now target food according to a release by British Standards Association (BSI).

Dieter Blommaerts, Director, Standardized Solutions, Securitas Europe says, “Recent years have proven that vital cargo is not always high-value items such as luxury or branded goods. Face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic is an example of goods that were targeted because they were essential as opposed to having high monetary value. Because of this, transport and logistics companies are having to elevate security regardless of the cargo their fleets are carrying.”

As criminals target a wider variety of cargo types, both in transit and at logistics hubs, theft and loss is having a significant impact on the industry. To put the scale of the problem into perspective, the European Union estimates that theft of cargo from road and rail amounts to **€8 billion**² a year.

“Businesses are increasingly looking to harness technology to respond to alerts.”

In terms of high-value cargo, electronics and pharmaceutical products are two prime examples being targeted by organized criminals in Europe.

Morten Krohn Sommer Mikkelsen, Head of Solutions Offering, Securitas Europe, highlights a security weak point in today’s supply chains that criminals are exploiting. He says, “Whilst security of goods at warehouses is a predictable risk

factor, unsecured parking sites are also frequently preyed upon.”

Unsecured parking is a particularly significant issue for transport and logistics companies in Europe, with the European Commission’s Study on Safe and Secure Parking Places for Trucks stating of a total demand of 400,000 HGV spaces, only 300,000 are available³. Whilst secure sites may be lacking, there are still measures that transport companies can take to protect employees and cargo on the road.

Mikkelsen says, “Away from transport hubs, businesses are increasingly looking to harness technology to monitor and respond to incoming alerts from drivers in real-time. Technologies include mayday, geofencing, door open, and trailer disconnection alarms - these capabilities are also essential for compliance with TAPA regulations.”

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1 <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/insights-and-media/media-centre/press-releases/2024/february/food-supply-chain-thefts-rise-in-2023/>
2 https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/security-safety/land-transport-security_en
3 European Commission: Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Maas, F., Ruschin, P., Stamos, I., Penasse, D. et al., Study on safe and secure parking places for trucks – Final report, Publications Office, 2019, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2832/067535>

TAPA standards

Securitas is a proud member of TAPA which is a unique forum that unites global manufacturers, logistics providers, freight carriers, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders with the common aim of reducing losses from international supply chains. TAPA's primary focus is theft prevention through the use of real-time intelligence and the latest preventive measures.

TAPA's mission is to help protect members' assets by minimizing cargo losses from the supply chain through the development and application of global security standards.

Robust security builds trust

“Having robust security services is fundamental to the integrity of business operations whilst maintaining the safety of their workforce and assets.”

Rhian Woolrych,
Global Sales Director
Securitas Europe

Compliance with TAPA security standards requires transport and logistics companies to implement security such as advanced monitoring capabilities, locking systems, cargo seals to secure loading and unloading, background checks, auditing, and incident response plans.

Rhian Woolrych, Global Sales Director, Securitas Europe, says, “Transport companies need a comprehensive security solution to achieve compliance with audit responsibilities whilst meeting increasing demands from their customers. For example, we see businesses incorporating

key measures and capabilities like pre-loading checks, advanced reporting, escort vehicle services, and panic button solutions for drivers to achieve the required security standards. Having robust security services is fundamental to the integrity of business operations whilst maintaining the safety of their workforce and assets. It is an enabler to retain customers and attract lucrative new business.”

CASE STUDY

Protecting High Value Transport with real-time verification

A transport company specializing in high-value pharmaceuticals wanted to enhance their security measures to safeguard both employees and transported goods.

With an increase in incidents involving criminals impersonating customs officials and police, the company wanted to ensure their drivers could verify the authenticity of the officers.

A High Value Transport security solution was implemented. This solution enables drivers to connect with Securitas Operations Centers (SOCs) in real-time. With a network of SOCs across Europe, operators can quickly assess the situation and provide immediate guidance to the driver, ensuring the safety of both the employees and the cargo.

Protecting the people who keep transport and logistics moving

End-to-end supply chain security does not just mean protecting cargo, it means protecting individual truck drivers, delivery personnel and warehouse employees. With shortages and skills gaps putting a strain on the industry, and supply chains becoming increasingly complex, it is essential that solutions are in place to support and empower transport industry workers.

According to the TAPA EMEA Intelligence System (TIS), deception, intrusion, and violence have been associated with a growing number of cargo thefts in the past year. In July 2024 alone, over a third of instances

were linked to intrusion, and 76 cases were reported involving violence. These figures illustrate the growing importance of security solutions that protect transport and logistics employees.

Olle Lindskog, Global SOC Director says, “Transport companies are increasingly recognizing that robust security not only means tracking cargo with precision, but also being able to locate the people transporting, handling, and protecting it. Having real-time visibility of drivers and the ability to easily communicate with them accelerates decision-making when support is needed

from our operations centers, such as dispatching services like mobile guarding or indeed contacting the authorities for emergencies.”

CASE STUDY: LONE WORKER PROTECTION

How do you ensure the safety of your drivers when they’re alone on the road? This was a challenge for a transport business, which led them to equip their drivers with Lone Worker Protection.

Key challenges:

- Ensuring the well-being of drivers, particularly in the case of health incidents if they are unexpectedly unwell
- Providing security for drivers when they leave the truck i.e. to refuel, or when they are getting refreshments

- Verification/authentication if truck drivers pulled over by the police – they want to ensure that they are rightfully the police
- Protection against criminals looking to steal cargo or unauthorized travellers breaking into the trailer to hide.

A specific example of Lone Worker Protection in action was when one of their truck drivers experienced a seizure while in the cab. He pressed the panic button on his device, sending an alert to the local Securitas Operations Center (SOC). With

SOC support available 24/7, a skilled operator responded immediately. Emergency services were contacted and the driver was provided with vital and timely assistance.

CASE STUDY Security provision at new truck terminal for leading logistics business

A leading logistics company needed to secure their new truck terminal, focusing on perimeter protection and access control. Previously, they used the same security measures for both trailers and the terminal, which left the hub open to intrusions.

To address this, they implemented an advanced video surveillance system that greatly improved security across the facility. This system, combined with an access control solution, ensures that only authorized personnel can enter specific areas. This setup helps reduce both insider and external threats and supports compliance.

As a result, the terminal met the security needs of the company’s existing customers and allowed them to promote themselves as a modern carrier with cutting-edge security.

Lone workers also face risks when operating in the expansive transport hubs that support today’s supply chains. Woolrych says, “Given the sheer size of transport hubs, without tech-enabled visibility, these environments can be dangerous for lone workers, and become security weak points that criminals can easily exploit.”

According to TAPA⁴, origin facilities have been ranked the most targeted location type when it comes to cargo theft and are associated with almost half of cargo theft cases.

Compliance with TAPA specifically calls for transport and logistics companies to ensure that

comprehensive lone worker security is in place. Blommaerts says, “Transport and logistics companies need to be equipped with monitored tracking and tracing devices to accelerate issue response times, and drivers must have access to reliable two-way, real-time voice communication systems to report incidents as they occur.”

Mikkelsen adds, “Innovative solutions that protect lone workers should be treated like hard hats on a construction site – they’re not an accessory, they’re essential.”

Tackling today’s complex set of security risks is not only about reacting more quickly to threats as

they unfold but using technology to become more predictive and proactive to improve mitigation.

Mikkelsen says, “I see the potential for more transport and logistics companies to leverage security data and use intelligent technologies to optimize route safety and avoid disruptions. For instance, data could be analyzed to plan routes that avoid crime hotspots and prioritize safer parking locations. AI can be used to pre-empt and avoid threats and operational disruptions and insights can be tailored to meet specific client needs.”

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4 TAPA Vigilant Magazine, August 2024

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Rhian Woolrych,
Global Sales Director
Securitas Europe



Cutting carbon with smart security

As major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions with challenging Net Zero targets, transport and logistics companies are required to be both secure and sustainable.

Woolrych says, “Businesses all over Europe are looking at sustainability up and down their supply chain. Consequently, transport businesses are looking to us as a security supplier to help them reduce their carbon footprint and support their reporting requirements. Intelligent, remote security solutions have a crucial role to play. For example, by reducing the need to physically send people to locations this is already having a positive impact on carbon footprints. Of course, we still need to provide people or send mobile dispatch out to

client sites to respond to client needs or an alarm, but by using an electric vehicle vs i.e. a regular vehicle - this has a positive impact on emissions and it all counts.”

Mikkelsen says, “We contribute to transport operations becoming more sustainable by championing energy-efficient technologies and eco-friendly practices. Remotely monitored and managed security systems make effective use of valuable energy resources. From solar-powered surveillance systems to electric patrol vehicles and smart lighting, we are passionate about minimizing carbon footprints.”

Blommaerts says, “Sustainability is not just seen through the lens of carbon

reduction, it is also about people. We believe in the positive impact the right security solutions can have on the wellbeing of lone workers like HGV drivers.”

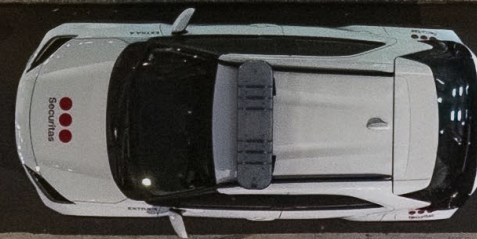
SUSTAINABLE SECURITY

Securitas has been a signatory of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015 and were the first global security company to sign the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). Having recently completed a first full year of CO2 disclosure, Securitas’ near-term target is a 42% reduction by 2030.

The road ahead

It's clear that the transport industry faces a number of pain points but also great opportunity with various sources predicting ongoing growth for the sector. However to put the challenges into context, risks such as theft are not new and they are not isolated to the transport industry.

The positive news is that increasing numbers of firms are seizing opportunities to protect and grow their business through smart security, AI and remote services. Today's smart solutions not only protect people and goods, at logistics hubs and on the road, but are unlocking new ways to tackle challenges and enhance efficiency.



At Securitas we are taking the security industry into the future. We bring together our expertise in individual services such as Remote, Mobile and On-Site services, Fire & Safety and Technology, into innovative security solutions to meet our clients' diverse needs. Just like your business, our security solutions are built to adapt and grow. And with a truly global presence, we are proud to be trusted security partners to businesses all over the world.

