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Best practice: Transport Safety

SUVA's seven crucial rules for the road transport



Photo: SUVA

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SUVA'S SEVEN CRUCIAL RULES FOR THE ROAD TRANSPORT

Even experienced professionals may become involved in accidents. Within the campaign “Vision 250 lives”, the SUVA and the Swiss association for commercial vehicles compiled seven crucial rules to improve transport safety on the road. Every year, on average six employees lose their lives in a road transport-related accident; many others get seriously injured. Employees who know the seven rules and act accordingly reduce their risk of dying or getting injured in an accident. With “Vision 250 lives” the SUVA aims at cutting the number of fatal work accidents into half over the course of 10 years.

Secure load properly, prevent vehicles from rolling away or wear protective equipment are examples for crucial rules in the road transport safety. In addition to the rules, instruction aids were developed and each rule is explained in a separate instruction sheet. The front is designed as a small poster; the back contains information for the supervisor. These documents support the employer in informing all employees about these crucial rules. Instruction of one rule takes generally about ten minutes. It is recommended to introduce one rule each week and to repeat them continuously in groups of three to six employees.

Here are the rules that both employers and employees should work by:

Rule 1: We comply with the traffic rules

Employee: I comply with the traffic rules and the obligatory rest periods.

Supervisor: I check whether my truck drivers comply with the traffic regulations and rest periods.

Rule 2: We prevent vehicles from rolling away

Employee: I secure the vehicle and the trailer, so they can not roll away.

Supervisor: I make sure intact wedges are available and used.

Rule 3: We always drive the towing vehicle to the trailer when coupling

Employee: When coupling, I drive the towing vehicle to the trailer.

Supervisor: I check the correct connection and disconnection of vehicles and trailer.

Rule 4: We always secure loads against falling and slipping

Employee: I always secure my cargo during loading, transportation and unloading.

Supervisor: I give clear guidelines on how cargo should be secured during loading, transportation and unloading. I provide adequate working equipment.

Rule 5: We protect ourselves against falling

Employee: I choose my location and my working equipment in a manner that I do not fall.

Supervisor: When working at heights, I ensure that safe access and fall protection are provided. I do not tolerate improvising.

Rule 6: We only operate work equipment we are trained for

Employee: I only operate with work equipment I am trained and instructed for.

Supervisor: I ensure that my employees receive the necessary training and instructions and that the knowledge is implemented.

Rule 7: We wear protective equipment

Employee: I wear the required personal protective equipment.

Supervisor: I ensure that my employees receive personal equipment, wear these and ensure their maintenance. I wear them too.