

CTM/GE2497/JHU

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GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS ON THE ISSUE OF FUEL THEFT

*Unanimously adopted by the IRU Goods Transport Council (CTM) meeting,
held in Geneva on 3 April 2014*

Guidelines on the issue of fuel theft.

To address the issue of fuel theft the IRU recommends implementing the following guidelines based on Monitoring – Prevention – Reporting.

- **Monitoring**

It is important to have a fuel inventory as this helps to identify when a theft has occurred. In this respect it is for example advisable to ensure that vehicle usage records correlate with fuel use.

- **Prevention**

- **Secure parking**

As many fuel thefts happen at unsecured parking areas, “defensive parking” is strongly advised. This includes using safe and secure parking areas, located from information provided by the IRU TRANSPark. In addition, it is recommended to park with the fuel tank facing the road so that passing traffic makes it less of a target, or, alternatively, park in that way that makes the fuel tank difficult to access and avoid, if feasible, parking overnight with a full fuel tank.

- **Fuel theft devices**

There are many aftermarket products that can make fuel tanks on vehicles less vulnerable, such as locking fuel caps and anti-siphon devices. A proven effective fuel theft device monitors the amount of fuel in the tank and is linked to the vehicle alarm, which will sound if the fuel level in the tank drops quickly without the engine running.

However, with all the various market products available it has to be borne in mind that organised crime gangs will not be easily discouraged as lockable fuel filler caps and anti-siphon devices can be bypassed by holes being drilled in the fuel tank and valves cut. The fuel theft devices might only briefly slow down thieves, with the repair costs of damaged tanks substantial.

- **Security lighting**

Effective security lighting on company premises can help make certain areas safer as passers-by, neighbours and the police can see in easily. In addition, the vehicles should be parked in such a way as to allow fuel tanks to be clearly lit in the hours of darkness.

- Post appropriate security signage

A sign showing that live video surveillance is in use – or any other form of security service – can act as a deterrent; even signs publicising that rewards are offered for reporting theft should be visible as scientific studies have shown that displaying visible signs of security is one of the most effective forms of security.

- Reporting

It is important to consequently report fuel theft to the police and insurance companies. The intelligence gathered can go some way towards deterring criminals as national hotspots can be identified and the prosecution rate could be increased. In addition, appropriate reports should be sent to local press to increase awareness in the area.

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