

## SAFE PACKING OF CARGO FOR TRANSPORT

Packing of items within containers is very important, particularly for shipping cargoes in the rough winter conditions. We can expect significant forces acting on the cargo as it is transported through rough seas.

Road transport provides some of the strongest 'g-forces' that will act on cargo, for example when braking and cornering, and during all weather conditions road transported cargo must be securely packed and fastened down.

**It is of the utmost importance that cargo is secured within the container units, whether they are open top baskets, closed units or skips.**

Best practice in securing is available from NOGPA and Oil & Gas UK. Some of the most important points are summarised here:

- All packages must be suitable, properly labelled and in satisfactory condition
- Packages must be stowed safely and properly secured in the CCU.
- Place liquids in upright position, securely fastened and sealed.
- Checks must be made on the weights of the packages to ensure a safe load distribution and to prevent the maximum permitted gross weight of the CCU being exceeded.
- When loading CCUs, consideration should be given to manual handling constraints and take into account any Operator/installations specific requirements.
- Always load heavier cargo at the bottom of the container and lighter materials on the shelf if using a shelved container.
- Use appropriate dunnage /packing between items in CCU and ensure CCU contents are lashed or wedged securely, to avoid movement in transit.
- Recommended to use cargo restraining nets in all closed CCUs. Ensure that nets are the correct size and type for the CCU and that the fixing points and nets are in good condition.
- Check the container doors are closed, dogs (cams/claws) top and bottom are fully engaged and the closing mechanism secured so that the doors cannot open during handling and transport.
- Take care when packing cargo into CCUs that have internal sea-fastening lugs or any other form of protrusions, as cargo may be punctured by the protrusions and/or create an environmental spillage.



Figure 1.8 Spilled liquid dangerous goods



**Beware when unpacking containers—Cargo may be loose and may fall out when the doors are opened! Heavy items may be leaning against the doors! Take care!**