

The Highway Code (Rule 98), the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 40A), and the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 say that goods transported by road must be secured to the vehicle they are carried on or in to make sure the load doesn't come off the vehicle or make the vehicle unstable. The driver and anyone else who causes or permits the vehicle to be on the road, are all responsible for the safety of the load.

Employers and the self-employed have legal duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 (Sections 2 & 3) to take reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of both their own employees and other people who might be harmed if a load shift happens on the road or in the workplace. They must assess the risks of what they do and provide suitable equipment, information, and training so that drivers and loaders can load vehicles safely.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) say that work equipment must be fit for purpose, maintained and inspected to spot damage before it affects the safety of the equipment, and used only by people who have received appropriate training and information.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



Ratchet strap labels

The strength of a strap is shown on its label as the

Lashing Capacity (LC).

This is measured in decaNewtons (daN), which are equivalent to kg.

More information

For more information please visit the load securing: vehicle operator guidance page on GOV.UK: www.gov.uk/government/publications/load-securing-vehicle-operator-guidance/load-securing-vehicle-operator-guidance

Ratchet straps What you need to know



Ratchet straps - quick reminder

Webbing ratchet straps can be used to secure most types of loads, but it's important to make sure that you use and store them properly.

When you're not using straps you should store them in a weatherproof container or compartment so they don't get damaged.

As a general rule, if you're transporting palletised goods, boxes and stillages, you will need at least one strap per row.



4129 incidents involving ratchet straps in 2015

✔ If you carry loads like steel, concrete, and scrap metal that can damage the strap material, use corner protectors or webbing sleeves to protect the straps.

 
Never use a knot in any part of the strap that's under tension.

 
Cuts, tears, water, rock salt and oil contamination can lead to straps wearing out.

If you're transporting pipes or poles, it's often better to use loop lashing, where the strap wraps around the load to make sure the load stays together.

✔ Choose straps that are strong enough to secure the loads you carry.
✔ Check your straps regularly.