

SAFE LOADS

As you may be aware regulations covering Chain of Responsibility (CoR) have already or are currently being introduced nationally. These laws affect some activity within the supply chain, which includes transport, warehousing, distribution and retail.

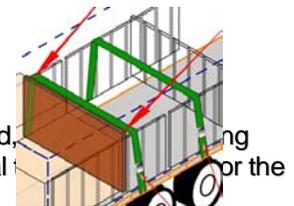


Core Elements of the Metcash - Safe Loads Guide

As part of Metcash Limited initiatives to meet its obligations under the Chain of Responsibility and C&E law, and as a result of our testing, some variation in the way we once did things will need to be undertaken. Metcash now requires all vehicles to meet certain standards prior to loading and or unloading.

To ensure all goods are transported safely and to minimise injury to loading and unloading personnel including the driver, all road transport vehicles entering Metcash sites including our retail customer's premises are to ensure the following: -

1. All dry goods and beverage loads must be restrained using a containment method to prevent movement or items to become dislodged in any direction e.g. pantec with restraint poles or gates with plywood/core flute barriers between pallets (at drivers discretion).
2. There must be at least one securing strap or alternative restraint mechanism over every row of gates;
3. Where gates are not used, angles against a total square edge in conjunction with at least one securing strap or alternative restraint mechanism for every row of freight must be used;
4. Where the above cannot be achieved, all soft-sided vehicles must use gates of an appropriate nature;
5. All gates must meet OH&S requirements;
6. Packages must not project horizontally outside the vehicle's verge;
7. Gates must be at least two-thirds of load height (where secondary restraint is used, and a Tarp or curtain side), where this is not the case gates must be at least equal to the load height. The load must be consolidated in such a way that angles and straps can be used.
8. All pantec's and vans must have restraint systems and devices to prevent forward and rear movement, where necessary wedging materials should be used to further keep the load from moving;
9. All loads must start against a headboard, bulk head or front rack or other fixed restraint of some type;
10. All vehicle loads must be spread in such a way as not to overload axles;
11. All compartmental designed vehicles (e.g. tri-temp) are to follow the above same rules;
12. Verification that can demonstrate the load has been appropriately loaded, secured, restrained/ contained and protected in accordance to Company guidelines must be made available.



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FAQ's

Why is Metcash concerned with Load Restraint?

Metcash has a legal responsibility under C&E legislation to ensure that all heavy vehicles that enter or exit our sites are compliant to Mass, Dimension and Load Restraint regulations.

Metcash's commitment to the RLSC Code of Conduct outlines expected levels of behaviour in regard to CoR, transport related OHS, and a wide range of systems & procedures that have been identified as key issues in promoting a safe and efficient transport & logistics industry.

More information on the RLSC Code of conduct can be found at:

<http://www.austlogistics.com.au/>

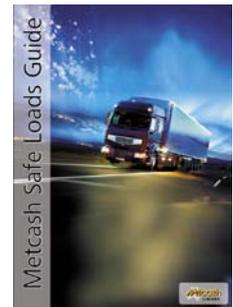


Where did the Safe Loads Guide come from?

Metcash has undertaken performance testing of pallet assembly techniques & load restraint and containment methods with the findings establishing that most load types transported by Metcash have a low co-efficient of friction and poor pack integrity.

As a result of our testing it was concluded by the consulting expert, ATCC P/L that the only way for Metcash to restrain loads in accordance with the 'Load Restraint Guide' was by means of containment.

Taking on board the recommendations outlined in the report, we have developed our "Safe Loads Guide" to describe the minimum standards to be applied to carry our product safely and legally.



What equipment do I need to comply?

There is a quick checklist of items needed to restrain loads in accordance with the Metcash Safe Loads Guide.

- **Pantecs:** Restraint poles, blocking devices where necessary.
- **For Curtain sides:** Gates, with a 50mm webbing strap over every row of removable gates, and certification for any fixed gates or restraint structure. (Same rules for flat tops)

Additional Information

- Gates must be 2/3 of load height
- 50mm webbing straps must be used (either truck mounted or hand ratchet)
- Angles must be used - if directly restraining freight

