

TRAILER TELEMATICS AND ANTI-THEFT PROTECTION:

Ensuring Security and Efficiency



Introduction

In today's fast-paced world, fleet managers face significant challenges in maintaining the security and efficiency of their operations. Trailers carrying valuable cargo are particularly vulnerable to theft. However, with advancements in trailer telematics and anti-theft technologies, fleet managers now have powerful tools at their disposal to protect their assets and streamline their operations. In this guide, we will explore the world of trailer telematics and anti-theft protection, understanding their benefits, integration possibilities, selection criteria, and implementation strategies.

Anti-Theft Protection for Trailers

Trailer theft has become a growing concern for fleet managers worldwide. Changing freight patterns over the past three years have warranted a marked increase in the number of trailers operating in North America, most notably due to an increase in e-commerce home delivery. Meanwhile, the impact of global supply chain shortages to manufacturing – especially at “just-in-time” operations – have created situations where goods arrive in trailers but for various reasons (labor shortages, manufacturing delays, etc.) aren't immediately unloaded, and can remain in untethered trailers for weeks at a time. As the number of trailers that are in operation but sitting idle, untethered, and loaded with goods grows larger, so does the risk of theft. Traditional anti-theft methods, such as physical locks and barriers, serial number registration, and surveillance cameras have limitations and may not provide real-time monitoring or tracking capabilities.

To counter these challenges, advanced anti-theft technologies have emerged. GPS tracking and recovery systems integrate with trailers, enabling real-time location information that aids in swift recovery if a trailer is stolen. Utilizing geofenced locations can also help indicate when a non-active trailer is stopped in an unauthorized location, helping to indicate a potential theft risk.

Tamper detection and alarms, such as door monitoring sensors, can alert fleet managers or security personnel of unauthorized access or tampering. Some anti-theft systems even offer remote immobilization capabilities, allowing fleet managers to disable the trailer's movement remotely in case of theft or unauthorized usage. Additionally, integration with security service providers strengthens the chances of successful recovery.

Trailer Theft Statistics

The transportation sector experienced an estimated **20% increase in reported cargo thefts amid changing criminal tactics in 2022**. The total loss value in 2022 was \$223 million.

- [source](#)

In just the past year, **60% of retail small and mid-sized businesses have been rocked by a theft**. - [source](#)

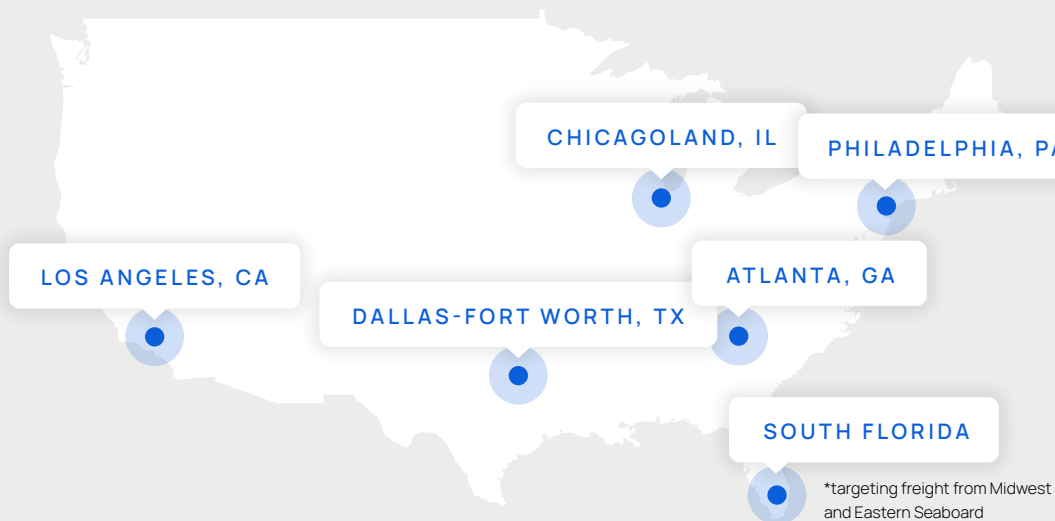
Cargo theft is up an additional 41% through May 2023 - [source](#)

- Avg. loss value: **\$394k per load**
- Top target locations: **warehouse and distribution centers, parking lots**

Food and beverage products are the top targets for freight theft in 2023, with an **average loss of \$214,000**. - [source](#)

- 50% increase YOY ('21 to '22), average loss of \$214k per load
- According to the FBI, **cargo theft is estimated to cost trucking companies and retailers between \$15 billion and \$30 billion a year**.

Top Locations for Theft:



Integration of Trailer Telematics and Anti-Theft Systems

Advanced trailer telematics solutions contain multiple cargo protection and anti-theft solutions that help fleet managers enhance the security of trailers while gaining valuable insights into their utilization and performance.

When using advanced trailer telematics together with first-line defenses like tamper detection and GPS, fleet managers can confidently ensure cargo integrity and minimize financial loss. Integrating all of these tactics also provides a holistic view of fleet operations, which can lead to optimized asset utilization, enhanced maintenance planning, and streamlined communication.

Protecting Your Trailers with Road Ready

A suite of advanced Road Ready sensors can go a long way in keeping your fleets — and their loads—safe. When your trailers are equipped with Road Ready sensors, there are several ways we help put a damper on theft:

- Geofencing - When your known route is geofenced, we're able to tell quickly if and when one of your trailers goes off course — and keep an eye on it until it's recovered.
- Door sensors - Know every time the cargo doors are opened, and whether they're authorized openings or not. Combined with GPS tracking, you'll know if the doors are opened in improper locations or even opened multiple times — all signs that something is amiss.
- Weight sensors - Trailer weight and distribution sensors let you know immediately if something shifts when it isn't supposed to.

When all three of these solutions are combined, you'll know about any deviations from the norm and be able to take action quickly.

Selecting the Right Trailer Telematics and Anti-Theft Solutions

To select the most suitable trailer telematics and anti-theft solutions for your fleet, it's important to identify your specific needs. Consider factors such as fleet size and composition, industry-specific requirements, and budget considerations. Key factors to evaluate include the accuracy and reliability of tracking, user-friendly interface and reporting capabilities, scalability and expandability, integration capabilities, and customer support and maintenance services.

Evaluating available options requires thorough research, reading reviews and case studies, and requesting demos or trials from potential solution providers. This process ensures that the chosen systems align with your fleet's requirements and have a proven track record of effectiveness.

Road Ready Recommendations Based On Your Business

Theft is an issue that all fleet managers face, but some are more prone to targeting than others. Here are just a few use cases that show how we can help protect your cargo.

- LTL Customers - Frequent stops and less-than-optimized routes make it easier for thieves to steal inventory. Cargo cameras and weight distribution sensors help you know if loads are adjusted or moved without authorization.
- Line Haul - Trucks running consistently on a dedicated route allow would-be thieves to track and plot a location to strike. Geofencing sensors let you know immediately if your trailers stray from their pre-designated routes.
- High Value - Trailers loaded with sought-after or expensive loads — like liquor, medical or pharmaceutical supplies, or firearms — are all common targets. Door sensors let you know any time a door is opened, and if they're authorized openings.

Implementing Trailer Telematics and Anti-Theft Systems

Once you decide to integrate advance telematics and anti-theft systems into your operation, your first step is to choose the right partner to implement those systems – and to help you decide exactly what's right for you.

At our Road Ready Command Center, located in the Clariance Technologies Headquarters in Southfield, Michigan, we have a full team of dedicated consultants who can help you define your security goals, recommend solutions, establish your implementation timeline, and coordinate installation. Once you're up and running, we help you monitor and maintain your system and identify theft risks.

Conclusion

Trailer telematics and anti-theft protection have become essential components of modern fleet management. Leveraging advanced technologies and systems, you can enhance the security and efficiency of their operations while gaining valuable insights into trailer utilization and performance. And most importantly, you can gain confidence and peace of mind.

Let's Get Started!

If you're eager to get your fleet Road Ready, then let's start the conversation. Contact us to learn more about our best-in-class sensor options, easy-to-use software, simple pricing options, or to schedule a demo. We make trailer telematics simple, so you can maximize revenue by keeping your fleet trailers on the road.

— [Contact Us](#)