

# Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

## LOAD SECUREMENT

### Expert Investigates Cargo Loss

Two tanks of pre-market pediatric vaccine toppled over and were destroyed while being transferred from a production facility in Canada to a testing facility in the United States. The vaccine was transported by a third party trucking company that specializes in refrigerated transportation of goods for the pharmaceutical industry. The loss was valued at approximately \$750,000 US. Robson Forensic trucking expert, Brooks Rugemer, was retained to evaluate the cargo pick-up and securement procedures of the trucking company to determine if their actions were a cause of the loss.



Photos taken after the cleanup of the trailer showed two round holding tanks and several load securement bars. There were two different types of load bars in the trailer, ratchet type and “e-track” load bars. Despite prior instructions to the trucking company to bring load straps, none were provided to the driver to secure the cargo on this trip. Load bars, by their design, are effective at securing freight from moving forwards and rearwards, not side to side or laterally. Our expert demonstrated that since the two vaccine tanks were different sizes it was not possible to effectively secure the cargo with securement bars alone.

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Brooks provided a simple and straightforward method to effectively secure both tanks for transit that involved the use of two securement straps, to firmly secure the tanks to the sides of the trailer walls, and two "e-track" load securement bars to prevent front-to-rear load shifting. The failure of the trucking company to provide the proper and necessary load securement devices for this delivery, along with their failure to provide their driver with adequate training on effective load securement methods, were the causes of this incident.

This matter resolved favorably for our client in arbitration. The Arbitrator found the trucking company to be the exclusive cause of the loss.

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