

Possibilities of the protection against phantom/fake hauliers (PFH) and identification of the PFH using identity of the companies or persons from the in Slovak republic

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This short handbook has been prepared by the Association of the Logistics and Freight Forwarding of Slovak republic (Zväz Logistiky a Zasielateľstva SR) to help to the members of the association, customers of the road transport companies and foreign partners to protect themselves against activities of the phantom / fake hauliers (PFH).

Phantom haulier is the term which is used in several EU countries for special kind of road transport crime. Method of these gangs is to present their truck with the false identity to the shipper or freight forwarder, to load the shipment and to steal the goods.

Very often they use the Internet database to present themselves and also as the source of information about the potential victims . companies responsible for transport in time and price press.

The gangs work on the international base, but defense is problem of national associations, insurance agencies or the private companies. The police international cooperation is not enough fast and flexible to protect transport and logistics industry.

To cover the real identity gangs are use wide scope of methods :

- a.) false documents of the person and truck,
- b.) copy of the documents of the existing company,
- c.) purchase of the transport company as problems and using them for the theft of the FTL shipments,
- d.) In case, that PFH is organizing the transport, he can use the existing trucker for picking up and passing the shippers control. He can give him order to reload the shipment to the PFH truck later.

The prevention is difficult because of inflexible police cooperation among the EU states. Legislation of the EU is not effective. At the same time the competition and crisis is pressing on the logistic services providers.

Because of flexibility PFH the methods mentioned in this handbook do not give the guarantee of the discovering of the PFH. But in many cases using them could prevent the losing of the shipment.

All information, contacts, web pages, e-mails and telephone numbers have only limited time of the validity and will be refreshed from time to time.

1. Measures to be taken by logistic/production companies prior to start a cooperation with new road haulage supplier.

- a.) The aim is to use possibly only double-checked companies from the approved haulage list.
- b.) In case of the new road haulier it is necessary to double check and possibly always visit on-site. (Slovak ones) and get references from a trusted source. It is necessary to check all details of the documents, because in many cases there were mistakes in the false documents presented by the phantoms.

- c.) Pay attention even with known & checked companies if dispatcher or owner is changed. Phantom hauliers become the owners of few small, but regionally known road haulage companies. They are also using the name and identity of existing company in many cases.

Check of insurance (CMR-responsibility) contracts through attached list of call-centers/through listed mail addresses of responsible operators.

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|-------------|--|
| UNION | zodpovednost.vznik@union.sk . non stop service jozef.sulaj@union.sk . in case of phantom |
| ALLIANZSP | vojtech.kosik@allianzsp.sk |
| UNIQA | lmrich.polak@uniqua.sk |
| GENERALI | sona.sklenarova@gsl.sk ivan.franta@gsl.sk |
| CSOB | tomas.bleho@csob.sk |
| KOOPERATIVA | kostany@koop.sk goga@koop.sk lacko@koop.sk |

- e.) It is crucial to control all licenses and transport licenses through web pages of the state authorities. The standard is the control of basic documents supplied by the haulier via email/fax.

- ☐ European concession . permission of the EU
- ☐ Company register (www.orsr.sk a www.zrsr.sk)
- ☐ CMR liability insurance (to be checked through the insurance company call centre)
- ☐ Obligatory responsibility insurance- check data compliance online
<http://www.skp.sk/en/index.php?clanek=3>

The haulier is obliged to present

- ☐ List of registration number, model, color of all trucks used by approved haulage
- ☐ List of the telephone / mobile numbers, faxes, mail addresses
- ☐ 6 month probation period+is recommend before adding a new haulier onto the approved haulier list.

2. Measures to be taken at transport booking using haulage from the approved list

- a.) After a confirmation of the transport order from the haulier is necessary to check the data according to approved list+(registration number, phone, fax, mail, source of contact).
- b.) In case of non - conformity or unusual contact form (unknown person, driver himself) to check the cause by other communication channel (using approved list).
- c.) In case of using popfax.com it is recommended to increase vigilance. Company popfax.com runs a service called faxmail, which allows to send any attachment from an email address to a fax. Such message looks like sent from the fax. This service is provided by this French company since 2005 without any contractual base just on a optional registration therefore identification of the sender is virtually impossible.

In case of using a following haulage (chartered by the contractual haulier) the same checking procedure as with unknown haulage applies. Neutralization / issue of a new waybill and transshipment should be avoided. This is often used as method of covering of the identity of the real haulier.

3. Measures to be taken at transport booking using haulage not listed on the approved list

This is not standard situation, but the pressure of the competition and low rates is often obliging us to use this solution. The PFH anticipate this and especially in case of Internet transport database presented transport they are well informed about the problems with the chartering of the truck. In case of this situation it is necessary to be extremely careful.

a.) Standard control of basic documents supplied via email/fax

- ☐ European concession . permission of the EU
- ☐ Company register (www.orsr.sk a www.zrsr.sk)
- ☐ CMR liability insurance (to be checked through the insurance company call centre)
- ☐ Obligatory responsibility insurance- check data compliance online
<http://www.skp.sk/en/index.php?clanek=3>
- ☐ If the ID card number, passport, driving license is not stolen. Check in stolen documents database- which does not show documents with non- existing numbers, just existing stolen/lost ones. In case of not existing ID or passport the response is the same as in case of existing ID card or passport.

b.) Registration number of truck/trailer control in the stolen vehicles list at the web :

<http://www.minv.sk/?odcudzene-mot-vozidla>

- ☐ Auxiliary checking possibility <http://natankuj.sme.sk/?go=kradeze>)
- ☐ stolen cars with foreign plates numbers to check at:
http://www.idoprava.sk/Api/WebObjects/IPortal.woa/1/wa/IDopravaDA/cupa?name=ukradnute_auta&area=motoristi&wosid=0ffdrunugeNAODWOFAGi1q
- ☐ stolen cars acc to VIN codes to be found:
<http://www.iauta.sk/Api/WebObjects/IPortal.woa/wa/IAutaDA/>

c.) Check whom was the telephone number registered at.

d.) Interfaces in insurance companies dealing with the topic mentioned in the point 1.d.

e.) Check registration date in diverse databases (RAAL, TIMO, TRANS, TELEROUTE (ask reference from companies younger than 1 year and verify at other source).

f.) Check the company at haulage colleagues from the same city / district according to registration number.

g.) Ask reference from peers / competition the haulage works for. In this case is recommended to use contact of the known company for verification.

h.) The above to check always in case of hauliers presenting contacts only to mobile phones, without fixed telephone lines, faxes and using anonymous mail domains like g-mail, hotmail etc.

i.) In case of any doubts do not hesitate to cancel the standing order and charter another, checked haulage or not charter anyone.

4. Measures to be taken at transport at loading to be taken by consignors

There is big chance to discover the real identity of the driver, haulier, or false document during and before the loading of the truck. Often the loading company (logistic provider or owner of the goods) is the only one in the real physical contact with the PFH.

- a.) Compare the truck arrived at the loading place with the truck announced by the forwarder.
- b.) Ask for the original technical passport of the truck (registration documents), check the compliance with the presented truck - type, color, VIN numbers.
- c.) Store drivers photos, copy of the documents (videos from loading process)
- d.) Some countries allow using of the electronic technical passport - registration documents. It is possibility of checking of the real ownership of the truck.(in Slovakia is such provision about to put into practice)
- e.) It is useful to forbid transshipment and CMR waybill neutralization,.
- f.) Always in case of second haulier double check driver's instruction with shipper's order
- g.) It will be possible to check the real identity of the haulier during customs clearance via Customs office d-base (CEP project)
- h.) Possibility of the using of the d-bases of fingerprints / other biometric data to identify drivers and compare with phantoms archive is problematic from the point of view protection of the personal biometric data. Some projects are in operation and some of them are prepared.