

# SASMA Portal 2011

## Cargo crimes in Europe (February 2011) - TAPA EMEA



- [TAPA EMEA \(Transported Asset Protection Association\)](#)



**The Numbers Game** (data comes from TAPA EMEA Newsletter from March 2011):

In February, the TAPA EMEA IIS recorded 26 incidents, with an average loss value of €159,529.

The recorded incidents are classified as follows:

23 Cargo crime incidents (including six “Major Incidents”);

3 Truck thefts (Truck thefts without associated cargo loss are not included in the analysis to facilitate an accurate view of cargo crime incidents. The countries with the highest number of reported thefts during the month were the United Kingdom, Spain and Austria.)

According to the reports filed in February, consumer electronics such as laptops, flat screen televisions and DVD players were the products most targeted by thieves, followed by the

metal commodities and nonelectronics. Most of the incidents reported to the IIS during the month were Theft from Vehicle and Theft from Facility.

## **Incidents:**

### **Theft of Military Boots in Banbury (United Kingdom)**

Thieves attacked a truck parked overnight (February 6-7) in Banbury, Oxfordshire and made off with 337 pairs of British military boots reportedly destined for soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. To gain access to the cargo the thieves cut the trailer's curtain. The cargo's value was estimated at £31,000 (€36,791).

### **Ten Arrested for Attacking 50 Trucks in Motion (Spain).**

On February 22, 2011, Spain's Civil Guard arrested 10 Romanians suspected of involvement in cargo thefts from trucks in motion. The thieves are accused of carrying out at least 50 cargo thefts on national roads in several provinces, including Zaragoza, Valencia, Madrid and Alicante. Reports said the sophisticated gang, which mainly targeted electronics, mobile phones and perfumes, usually drove at night in several vehicles along the main highways to choose its victims. Then, according to the news agency EFE, one of the vehicles would move in front of the target truck to force the driver to slow. A thief travelling in a trail vehicle with the lights off would then jump from the hood of the vehicle to the back door of the trailer with the help of harnesses. After forcing the rear doors open, the thief would pass the boxes from the target truck to accomplices in the pick-up vehicle, repeating the action several times until they finished loading the targeted goods.

Some of the stolen cargo was recovered during a house search in Zaragoza and authorities believe it was ready to be transferred out of the country, as most of it was already packed into boxes and bags. The Civil Guard launched the operation that led to the thieves' capture in September 2010 following complaints from several transportation companies that had been victimised by the gang.

## **Thieves Steal Road Salt in Lower Saxony (Germany).**

Over the February 12 weekend, a ton of deicing salt was stolen from the premises of a company in Lower Saxony. Local authorities suggested that harsh weather conditions in the region may have prompted the theft. According to a local publication, details are unknown as to how thieves managed to remove the 40 bags of salt, weighing 25 kilograms each, from the premises. A spokesperson for the Osterode County precinct said this was the first time such a theft had occurred.

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