## Cargo Tips: Machinery Shipments

Oversize/Overweight Moves





Oversize/ Overweight loads are packages that exceed ordinary size and/or weight limits for highway or containerized transport. Thoughtful decisions on how to package, handle and transport your machinery can make all the difference in ensuring that it arrives at its destination safely. Chubb's Marine Risk Management Specialists are pleased to provide you with the following tips for packaging, handling and transporting your machinery in oversize/overweight transportation:

#### **Packaging**

- When securing the machine atop a skid, ensure the skid is well constructed of lumber that is clean, dry and free of knots, and robust enough to withstand the weight of the machine without bending or breaking. The lumber should be ISPM 15 (pest-free) compliant. The skid should be built to allow for mechanical (crane and/or forklift) handling. Consider having a professional export packer or crater involved.
- Bolt machines positioned atop skids to the skid, with the bolts extending into, or preferably through, the skid runners.
- When the machine's center of gravity is above mid-height, consider using a wider skid base to increase its stability and prevent tipping during handling and transport.
- Make sure none of the machine's parts extend beyond the footprint of the skid as this exposes the machine to damage through contact with adjacent cargo or structural members of the transport conveyance.
- Secure movable or loose parts of the machine
- If the machinery is sensitive to damage by shock or vibration, consider using rubber blocks. Use shock indicating or recording devices in order to validate

- whether or not the machine has been subjected to acceleration (expressed in G force) in excess of allowable thresholds. Affix these devices to both the interior or exterior of the package since they are prone to tampering or accidental removal.
- There should be instructions to immediately inspect for damage if these devices have been activated or one is missing.
- Coat bare metal and machined surfaces with a corrosion inhibitor spray.
- Cover machines sensitive to wetting in plastic. Alternatively, the machine can be enclosed in a wood case with plastic/ waterproof cover installed over the top of the case and banded in place around the upper sides.
- If the machine is sensitive to condensation related corrosion, it should be fully encapsulated in a vapor barrier bag with desiccants inside. Alternatively, you can use a VCI (Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor) wrap.
- Apply international handling symbols to the exterior of the packaging (on at least 2 sides) which clearly indicates how the machine is to be handled and stored. Examples include but are not limited to: Handle with Care, Keep Dry, Do Not Stack, Lift/Sling Here and Center of Gravity. Clearly mark other shipping data, such as the delivery address and weight, on the exterior of the case or crate.
- Clearly mark points on the machine or case to be used for securement during transport. Make sure these securement points are adequate in number and strength to allow for securement to the restraint force standards associated with the particular transport modes intended.



### Loading/Securement

- If your machine is being picked up by a domestic trucking company for transport to a port terminal or airport, ensure the equipment used is based on the size and weight (low boy or drop deck flatbed) and sensitivities (air ride suspension) of the machine.
- Depending on the modes of transportation used, the cargo must be secured to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Association of American Railroads (AAR) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) Standards. Guidance on this can be provided by Chubb Marine Risk Management - contact details below.
- For domestic truck segment, ensure that the trailer has a valid DOT/FMCSA inspection tag and appears to be in serviceable condition for the transport.
- For truck transport, if machinery sensitive to wetting is being carried on an open trailer, even if it has been covered in plastic, require tarping of the load by the carrier.

### Handling/Transport

- From initial pick up to the final destination, use a reliable transportation partner that specializes in transporting oversize/overweight loads, preferably one that has experience moving machinery similar to yours.
- Chubb Marine Risk Management Specialists can provide you with safety performance data for all trucking companies registered by the U.S. DOT for your use in identifying a suitable road carrier. We may also be able to provide some guidance on transportation partner and ocean carrier selection.
- For domestic truck transport or segment, make sure the trucking company has the necessary Road Permits from all relevant States and is in compliance with the requirements for signage, flags, lights, pilot and escort, as well as travel time restrictions.

- When practical, arrange for direct, door-to-door shipments to avoid transfers and transshipments that result in extra handling
- Provide your transportation partner with specific shipping instructions pertaining to any special handling, transport or storage requirements for the machine.
- If the gross weight of your machine is at least 20 tons, require your transportation partner to provide you with information/plans ("Method Statement") for intended handling and securement at each touch point along the transportation chain.
- If the machine is susceptible to water damage, consider requesting underdeck stowage on the ship.



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