

# WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

*Unsafe containers are putting transport workers, the public and the environment at risk.*

## WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

**On the roads:** Accidents can happen due to overloaded containers or shifting cargo causing trucks to leave the road sometimes spilling contents onto the road.

**In ports:** Overweight containers or containers with mis-declared weights can lead to uneven loading putting workers at risk of accidents like stack or crane collapses.

**At sea:** A number of ships have sunk releasing containers into the sea causing long-term environmental damage and threatening the lives of crew.

**On rail:** Rail wagons may be prone to derailments as a result of poor load distribution or overweight cargo falling through the bottom of containers.

**During unloading:** Drivers, dockers and warehouse workers may be exposed to hazardous gases and vapours from treatments against pests or toxic gases released from the products or packaging. Counterfeit gases are also used and can explode when containers are opened.

## WHAT DO WE WANT?

Strict enforcement of safety regulations on packing, weighing and transporting containers, including dangerous goods.

Responsibility for ensuring that the container is safe along the complete transport chain extended to all members of the chain, rather than pursuing the truck drivers and operators. This should include a real and workable penalty system for those who break the rules.

Full and correct information on what's inside the box – including the actual weight, state of packing, stowage, lashing, possible existence of toxic fumigants, vapours or dangerous substances – made available to all those involved in the handling of containers along the transport chain.

We also want better training and education on the issue of container safety so workers and the public know what they are dealing with.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Join your union and help gather evidence about unsafe containers. Notify your union representative of weight misdeclarations and concerns about container contents or packing.

Look out for and support union events and lobbying action around container safety.

For more info:

 [www.itfcontainersafety.org](http://www.itfcontainersafety.org)

 [www.facebook.com/itfglobal](https://www.facebook.com/itfglobal)

 [@itfglobalunion](https://twitter.com/itfglobalunion)

