

at their shipping dock of the manufacturing plant to a carrier to go to a wholesale distributor.

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## TRUCKING COMPANIES AND THE DRUG QUALITY AND SECURITY ACT

We reviewed Title II and carriers in Chapter 6 when we discussed Internet pharmacies. However, it has been our experience that theft involving trucking companies has a wide range of perpetrators. There is the simple tampering of products (one box here, another there) that is difficult to detect and catch unless it is done over a sustained period of time. Then there is the intermediate level of theft. On July 23, 2014, a truck carrying \$2 million worth of pharmaceutical drugs and narcotics (controlled substances) was stolen from a Bartow County, Georgia, truck stop. The driver left the truck running and unlocked while he ran into the truck stop to go to the bathroom. (This sounds unsafe, but it is a common practice for truck drivers not stopping for food and fuel, but only for the bathroom.) This had to be an inside job, according to reports. The perpetrators took the tractor trailer and even switched tractors within a short distance. Unfortunately for them, the tracking device was on the trailer!<sup>8</sup>

One anonymous law enforcement official enlightened me during a lengthy conversation on theft of in-transit pharmaceutical drugs and controlled substances. He described a sophisticated and dangerous twist to the above truck heist scenario. Select people know what shipments of what products go on what trailers. These people include the pharmaceutical drug manufacturing plant, the trucking company assigned to pick up a shipment, and the destination personnel—more than likely the wholesale distributor. The intent of the above theft was to steal the pharmaceutical drugs and narcotics. The law enforcement official told me that organized crime groups have set up prototype packaging lines to produce products and packaging that looks almost identical to the pharmaceutical drug manufacturer's packaging. They also have people on the inside to share this shipment information. When the tractor trailer is "hijacked," it is taken to a nearby location where the cargo is switched out with the counterfeit product. Law enforcement personnel locate the hijacked trailers within, on average, 30 minutes (thanks to the trailer-tracking sensors). They look in the trailer and see the cargo as "present and untouched."