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**Problems with 12 meter/40' container transport**

Many forty foot containers coming in to South Africa are the "high cube" variant. Shippers often have no choice in the container type supplied by shipping lines. When loaded on a standard truck bed for transport the overall height of the load may be as much as 460cm, which exceeds the prescribed legal maximum height of 430cm.

Abnormal load trailers with low beds cannot be used for these movements because they cannot be fitted with corner twist locks: no containers may be moved on South African roads unless twist locks are engaged at all four corners.

The result is a "catch 22" situation where both regulations cannot be complied with at the same time.

Carriers have been lobbying government for some years to resolve this anomaly in order to legitimize these movements, while containers have been allowed to continue moving.

Recently Provincial traffic forces have been instructed to impound and/or fine vehicles carrying high cube containers, even though there is usually no alternative transportation available. Cargo owners have received substantial fines and have also experienced lengthy delays in receiving their cargo.

The South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF) has asked the Minister of Transport to intervene in resolving this impasse and to take the necessary steps to legitimize these movements.

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