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The risk of falling off the truck

By Gerry Zack, CCEP, CFE, CIA

A recent news report reminded me of how difficult it can be to manage compliance and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. You may have seen the report: a tiny capsule the size of a small coin fell out of a truck in transit to its destination in Australia.^[1] Normally, this wouldn't cause much concern. But this capsule contained radioactive material, and it fell out somewhere along a 22-mile stretch of highway. Uh-oh!

It's believed that a screw came loose inside the container that held the capsule, allowing it to fall through a hole and eventually land on the ground. Handling the capsule for any length of time could have caused a person to have significant health issues. Fortunately, a frantic and extensive search resulted in the capsule's proper recovery.

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