



## ADR Tunnel Code Information

The use of tunnel codes for ADR took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010

The codes should in theory make it easier to plan transport journeys as the tunnels and codes are published on the UNECE web-site – however whilst information is improving many signatory countries have yet to classify and publicise their information [www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/country-info\\_e.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/country-info_e.htm)

Ten countries listed below (out of 46) have notified correctly under 1.9.5 although several others have advised some information.

Austria	Norway	
Belgium	Sweden	
Czech Republic	UK	
Denmark		
France		
Germany		
Netherlands		

There are five categories of tunnel categorisation with **A** representing the **least restrictive** and as such will not be sign-posted through to **E** which will mean only the passage of UN2919, 3291, 3331, 3359 and 3373 will be allowed.

The categorisation is based on the assumption that in tunnels there are three major dangers which may cause numerous victims or serious damage to the tunnel itself, these are:

- **Explosions**
- **Release of toxic gas or volatile toxic liquid**
- **Fires**

The ten UK tunnels that required classification are complete and have been listed below.

Tunnel	Code
Dartford (tunnel only)	C
Mersey	D
Clyde	D
Ramsgate	A
Tyne	D
Limehouse	E
Rotherhithe	E
Blackwall	E
East India Dock Road	E
Heathrow	E (whilst refurbishing – C when complete)

The codes **above** remember are for the tunnels themselves, the dangerous goods carried have a set of codes to go with them and can be seen on the table below (ADR 8.6.4).

**Members who transport goods under exemptions at 1.1.3, Limited & Excepted Quantities or under the threshold limits for example will not have to apply the**

**tunnel codes as they are not subject to the restrictions (shown at 1.9.5.3.6 & 8.6.3.3).**

Each UN number has been given a tunnel restriction code and they can be found in Table A 3.2.1 in column 15 along with the Transport category information.

If substances transported are in scope these codes will need to be inserted into the transport documents in compliance with 5.4.1.1.1 (k). If it is known that travel will not involve any tunnels then the code does not need to be entered (beware of M25 bridge closures).

When loads contain more than one dangerous substance the most restrictive code amongst those substances will need applying to the entire load.

Petrol (UN1203) in tank carriage, which is a common member load can be shown as an example, column 15 shows this as D/E. Looking at the table **below**, D/E allows the substance to travel through tunnels marked C and above (C, B and A). It will not allow the substance to travel through tunnels marked D or E.

**Table relating to substances ADR2009 8.6.4**

<b>Tunnel restriction code (the whole load)</b>	<b>Restriction</b>
<b>B</b>	Passage forbidden through tunnels of category B, C, D and E
<b>B1000C</b>	Carriage where the total net explosive mass per transport unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exceeds 1000kg: Passage forbidden through tunnels of category B, C, D and E</li> <li>- Does not exceed 1000kg: Passage forbidden through tunnels of category C, D and E</li> </ul>
<b>B/D</b>	<b>Tank carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category B and C; <b>Other carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category D and E
<b>B/E</b>	<b>Tank carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category B, C and D; <b>Other carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category E
<b>C</b>	Passage forbidden through tunnels of category C, D and E
<b>C5000D</b>	Carriage where the total net explosive mass per transport unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exceeds 5000kg: Passage forbidden through tunnels of category C, D and E</li> <li>- Does not exceed 5000kg: Passage forbidden through tunnels of category D and E</li> </ul>
<b>C/D</b>	<b>Tank carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category C, D and E; <b>Other carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category D and E
<b>C/E</b>	<b>Tank carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category C and D and E; <b>Other carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category E
<b>D</b>	Passage forbidden through tunnels of category D and E
<b>D/E</b>	<b>Bulk or Tank carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category D and E; <b>Other carriage:</b> Passage forbidden through tunnels of category E

Tunnel restriction code (the whole load)	Restriction
<b>E</b>	Passage forbidden through tunnels of category E
—	Passage allowed through all tunnels (For UN Nos. 2919 and 3331, see also 8.6.3.1)