

LOAD THRESHOLDS FOR CARRIAGE BY ROAD: CLASS 1 EXPLOSIVES: ADR SECTION 1.1.3.6

Background

ADR permits exemptions from some of the requirements for Transport Units carrying small quantities of dangerous goods. *The exemptions apply only to packaged dangerous goods.*

The term 'limited quantities' is sometimes used to refer to the small quantities of packaged dangerous goods set out in ADR 1.1.3.6. To avoid confusion, use of this term is best restricted to the limited quantity (LQ) provisions of ADR 3.4 - see guidance note ...

How do I find out if the load threshold applies to my dangerous goods?

Dangerous goods are allocated to Transport Categories. Check the Dangerous Goods List in Chapter 3.2. Look up the entry for the dangerous goods you want to carry. If there is more than one entry for a particular dangerous good then check column 2 and other relevant columns to make sure you have selected the right entry.

The Transport Category is shown in column 15. Dangerous goods in Transport Category 0 do not qualify for any on the exemptions listed in 1.1.3.6.2.

The load threshold for each Transport Category is given in the Table in ADR 1.1.3.6.3. There is also a formula to help you work out whether or not your dangerous goods fall under or over the load thresholds for dangerous goods in different Transport Categories.

Regulation 3(7) of the Carriage Regulations increases the threshold for domestic (UK) carriage of Class 1 explosives in Transport Categories 1 and 2 from 20 and 333 Kg to 50 and 500 Kg respectively. The formula for calculating the thresholds for mixed loads is also amended.

If you have obtained ADR 2003 on CD-Rom you may wish to copy then amend the Excel version of the Dangerous Goods List -so that it contains only those dangerous goods whose carriage you are involved with; a column could then be added giving the appropriate threshold value from the Table in ADR 1.1.3.6.3 - in order to avoid having to refer to the Table each time. (The first time you do this, remember to incorporate any corrections from the Corrigenda, since the published texts do not take account of these.)

3 What are the exemptions?

ADR 1.1.3.6.2 lists the following exemptions for Class 1 –

Chapter 5.3	Placarding and marking of containers and vehicles
Section 5.4.3	Instructions in Writing
Chapter 7.2	Provisions concerning carriage in packages
7.5.11 CV1	Loading/unloading in a public place

Part 8	Requirements for vehicle crews, equipment, operation and documentation <u>except for</u> 8.1.2.1(a) + (c) Transport document + texts of any relevant Special Agreements** 8.1.4.2 – 8.1.4.5 Fire fighting equipment and miscellaneous equipment 8.2.3 General training 8.3.4 Prohibition on lighting apparatus comprising a flame 8.4 Supervision of vehicles 8.5 S1(3) + (6) Prohibition of fire and naked flame + supervision of vehicles
Part 9	Requirements concerning the construction and approval of vehicles

** for domestic carriage, carriers are also exempt from 8.1.2.1(a) + (c) where the only packaged explosives being carried are those listed in Regulation 3(7)(a)(ii) and the quantity does not exceed the threshold

How do the new load thresholds differ from CER?

Most CER exemptions were linked to the placarding exemptions set out in CER Schedule 5 Paragraph 15. These domestic thresholds were generally more favourable than the ADR provisions. As the UK explosives sector had a good safety record the UK Government secured a national derogation to allow an increase in the thresholds for Transport Categories 1 and 2, allowing us to retain broadly similar thresholds. The differences are set out in the table below.

Type of Explosive	Threshold in KGs		
	CER	ADR	TCR*
1.1B, 1.2B, Substances of 1.1G, and Substances of 1.3G	20	20	50
1.6N	50	333	500
1.5D	50	50	50
1.1C, 1.1D, 1.1E, 1.1F, Articles of 1.1G (except UN 0333), 1.1J 1.2C (except UN 0328), 1.2D, 1.2E, 1.2F, 1.2G (except UN 0334), 1.2H, 1.2J, 1.3C (except UN 0161 + 0327), Articles of 1.3G (except UN 0195 + 0335), 1.3H, 1.3J,	50	20	50
1.1A, 1.1L, 1.2L, 1.3L	50	0	0
1.1G/1.2G/1.3G UN 0333/0334/0335 Fireworks 1.2C UN 0328 Cartridges, small arms 1.3C UN 0161 Powder, smokeless 1.3C UN 0327 Cartridges, small arms, blank 1.3G UN 0195 Signals, distress, ship	100	20	50
1.4B and substances of 1.4G	300	333	500
1.4C, 1.4D, 1.4E, 1.4F, and articles of 1.4G	500	333	500
1.4S	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

* Regulation 3(7)(b) of The Carriage Regulations

The exemptions are broadly the same but were set out in different ways in the relevant Regulations in CER. The new exemptions are slightly more beneficial.

CER sets out loading provisions for Types I, II and III Explosives vehicles, whereas ADR only has two types EX/II and EX/III. The Carriage Regulations will therefore require consignments of explosives above the threshold to be carried on EX/II or EX/III vehicles as appropriate for the type and quantity of explosives as set out in ADR 7.5.5.2. Under CER Schedule 3, Part II the load threshold (*Maximum quantity on a Type I explosives vehicle*) was 300 Kg for 1.4 explosives and 50 Kg for all other explosives, so the new thresholds are more beneficial.

Exemptions for driver training and DGSA's were set out in DTR Regulation 2(1)(b) and Schedule 2 Part II; and DGSA Schedule 1, Paragraph 2(a).