

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Geneva, 13-23 September 2005)

Carriage of Bitumen under RID/ADR**Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom**

Currently, when attempting to locate the UN number for bitumen in the alphabetical listing in table B of Chapter 3.2, the reader is referred only to UN1999 (TARS, LIQUID, including road asphalt and oils, bitumen and cutbacks). There are six separate entries under UN1999 in table A of 3.2 depending on the flash-point and vapour pressure of the material to be transported. However, all six entries are classified as class 3 (flammable liquids). There are no options for tar products with flash-points above 61°C, which are non flammable for transport.

However, as bitumen products are viscous they are often transported at elevated temperatures to ensure they are maintained in a liquid state. It is commonplace in both road and rail industry for bitumen products to be transported in tanks as a class 9 substance under UN3257 (ELEVATED TEMPERATURE LIQUID, N.O.S., at or above 100°C and below its flash-point (including molten metals, molten salts etc.)), or as class 3 substance UN3256 (ELEVATED TEMPERATURE LIQUID, FLAMMABLE, N.O.S with flash-point above 61°C, at or above its flash-point). This is borne out by the fact that Special Provision TE24 dealing with bitumen is allocated to both UN3256 and UN3257. Therefore these entries should be referenced against bitumen in table B of chapter 3.2 in addition to UN1999.

The United Kingdom would like to add/insert UN numbers UN 3256 and UN 3257 in addition to UN1999 as possible UN numbers for bitumen in table B of 3.2 in RID/ADR. This would give complete coverage for bitumen products with flashpoints from under 23°C to above 61°C, and would offer the proper extra options to industry wishing to carry such products.
