

ALL ABOUT ADBLUE

DRIVER GUIDE



ARVAL
BNP PARIBAS GROUP

For the many
journeys in life

All about AdBlue

Why Adblue?

Improving air quality is high on the political agenda. From September 2015, when the EU's Euro 6 emissions legislation came into effect, the majority of new diesel cars and LCVs will feature technology called Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR). This uses a liquid called AdBlue to help reduce harmful nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from the exhaust.

How does it work?

The system injects minute amounts of AdBlue solution into the exhaust system when the engine is running. The chemicals in AdBlue break down the polluting NOx emissions into harmless water vapour and nitrogen gas. Of three different technologies that will be offered in the UK market, SCR is believed to be the most effective in neutralising emissions and should prove to be the most widely used. The other two systems – NOx Storage Reduction (NSR) and Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) do not utilise AdBlue.

What is AdBlue?

AdBlue is a non-toxic, non-flammable, biodegradable additive that is 32.5% high purity urea, mixed with 67.5% ionised water.

What do drivers need to know about AdBlue?

AdBlue is stored in a tank within a vehicle that will typically hold between 18-30 litres of fluid.

Tank locations and capacity differ between makes and models and, as with fuel, the AdBlue range is also affected by driving style and vehicle loading. However, roughly speaking, five litres of AdBlue will be needed to react with 100 litres of diesel.

Each vehicle's AdBlue tank will typically be filled during routine servicing but top-ups might also be required. If this is the case, Arval recommends visiting your local dealer or an approved Service Centre where it can be filled for you. Also, AdBlue is available at most UK filling stations and motor factors.

How do I know I need to top up AdBlue?

Every make and model will differ but the vehicle will provide some kind of dashboard warning about the remaining range or simply that AdBlue levels are low. Arval recommends that a top-up is completed on the first dashboard warning or at the point of service when recommended by the service agent.

What happens if the AdBlue tank is empty?

If the AdBlue tank becomes empty, the vehicle will not restart once the ignition has been turned off. However, once AdBlue has been topped-up, normal service will be resumed.

Are there any safety worries in handling AdBlue?

AdBlue belongs to the lowest water pollution hazard category and is non-toxic, non-flammable and biodegradable. Drivers do not need to wear masks or protective clothing but AdBlue is a skin irritant and a corrosive liquid that can cause injury if it touches the skin, eyes or respiratory organs, so gloves are recommended. It will also corrode many metals such as aluminium alloys, copper, bronze and iron, and therefore represents instant destruction for electrical components if it is spilt on them.

Potential pollution to surface and groundwater is also an issue, so appropriate precautions must be taken when storing or dispensing it. Drain interceptors will not prevent it entering watercourses as, unlike oil, it mixes with water. If left puddled on concrete for long periods it may cause problems too, so equipment to absorb spills needs to be readily available at the point of storage.

AdBlue also freezes at -11 degrees centigrade based on the high water content, so issues may arise in very cold operating conditions.

Do I need to consider AdBlue when ordering a vehicle?

Prior to placing a diesel vehicle order with Arval, please ensure you understand whether it is AdBlue specific, what this means during the life of the contract and if this fits with your needs.

Are there any differences between using AdBlue in cars and vans?

The SCR technology that uses AdBlue is available for both cars and vans and the guidance in this factsheet apply to both. However, an important consideration for van operators is that the AdBlue range will differ depending on the loading of the van as well as driving style, so LCVs may require more additional top-ups than cars depending on these factors.

Where do I go for further guidance or details?

For further information or guidance on AdBlue, you can contact any of the below sources:

- Your local franchised dealer
- Your chosen vehicle manufacturer website
- Your fleet management company
- Visit the VDA link at www.vda.de/en/topics/innovation-and-technology/ad-blue/AdBlue-brand-list-and-licensees-list.html



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