

Operational Advice Notice

Cargo Tunnel Reopening Update

28th November 2025

ASDRVE_OAN_457

Version 1.0

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OSIs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Operational Advice Notice is to inform the airside community of the changes and updated procedures that need to be observed when using the Cargo Tunnel after the recent full closure. These will be reflected in a revised OSI 080 in due course.

1.2 The Cargo Tunnel is due to reopen on Tuesday, 2nd December 2025 at 0500 hours.

2. Summary of Changes

2.1 Speed Limit & Separation

2.1.1 The new speed limit in the Cargo Tunnel is **30 mph**. This will continue to be enforced via ANPR average speed monitoring.

2.1.2 All vehicles (including coaches) traveling through the Cargo Tunnel are required to keep a **minimum distance of two chevrons (36 metres)** apart as illustrated below in Figure 1. This replaces the restrictions that previously used dots and reflective strips.

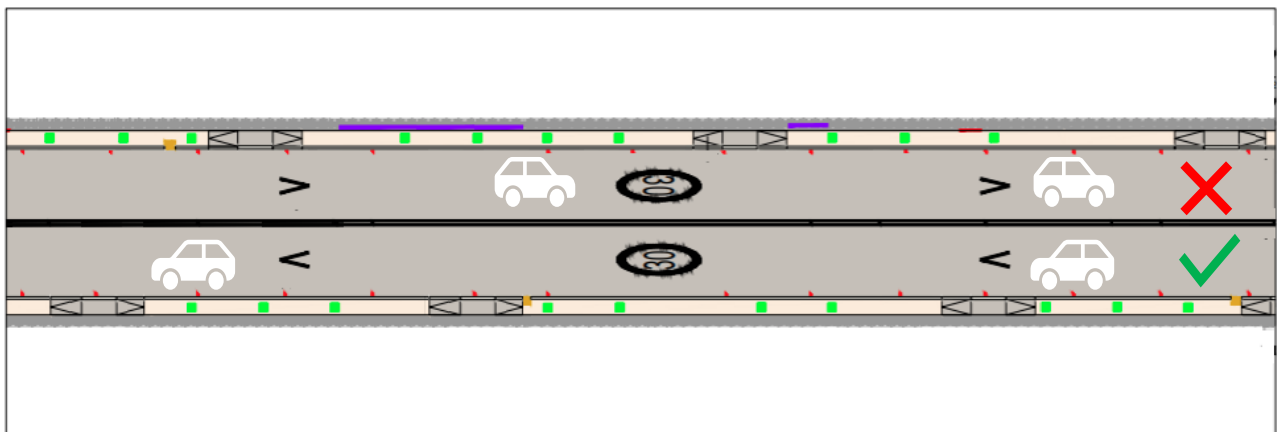


Figure 1



2.2 Tunnel Closure

- 2.2.1** In the event of an incident in the tunnel, automatic barriers at the entrances to the tunnel will close, the traffic lights at the Southern portal will change to red, and variable message boards will indicate that an incident is in progress. **Drivers must not attempt to enter the tunnel if an incident is ongoing.**

2.3 Evacuation Procedure

- 2.3.1** In the event of a fire in another section of the tunnel, drivers will be alerted by the public address system. Lighting levels will also increase and smoke extraction systems will run at high speed.
- 2.3.2** Green “running man” signs are now displayed along the entire length of the tunnel carriageway to indicate the direction and distance to the nearest exit. The signs in the Cargo Tunnel are only illuminated in the event of an incident and to direct people away from the incident as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.



Figure 2



Figure 3

2.3.3 In the event of a fire, drivers and passengers must:

- Leave the vehicle and evacuate the tunnel, using the illuminated signage to identify the shortest distance, taking others with them.
- Activate a manual call point whilst evacuating as shown in Figure 4.

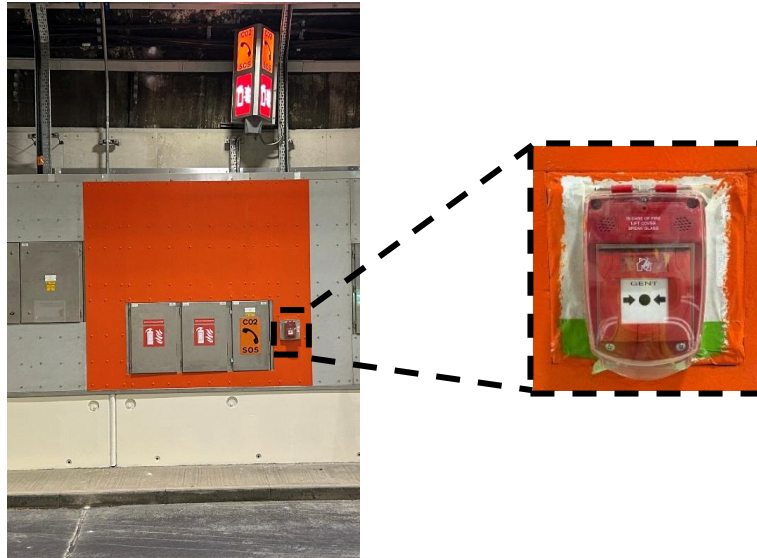


Figure 4

- Use an Emergency Roadside Telephone whilst evacuating or dial 0208 759 1212 from their mobile phone if safe to do so.

2.3.4 A Fixed Fire Fighting Suppression system (FFFS) is also installed and will operate automatically in the area around the detected incident.

2.4 Operation of Coaches

2.4.1 The restriction of 40 passengers allowed on any one coach has been removed.

2.4.2 The existing procedures in OSI 080 for transporting passengers with reduced mobility (PRMs) through the Cargo Tunnel remain in effect.

3. Enquiries

Any questions concerning this OAN should be addressed to the Heathrow Airfield Duty Manager at airfield.duty.manager@heathrow.com or by telephone 0208 745 7373 who will coordinate with the Tunnel Operations Manager.

