



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 TUESDAY 3 JANUARY**

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xx December 2011

## **New London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards now in operation**

- **New emissions standards in operation from 3 January 2012**
- **Vehicles registered outside of Great Britain that travel in London are affected**

The emissions standards for vehicles travelling within the London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) have changed and this will affect owners and operators of vehicles registered outside Great Britain, including Northern Ireland.

### **Lorries, buses and coaches**

Lorries, buses and coaches must now meet a Euro IV emissions standard for particulate matter (PM) to travel in London without paying a daily charge. Owners and operators of lorries, buses and coaches that meet the current LEZ standards of Euro III for particulate matter (PM) and are already registered with TfL should have taken action to ensure their vehicles meet the new Euro IV standards and re-registered their vehicle with TfL. This is essential to ensure TfL has the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Operators or owners with vehicles already registered with TfL as meeting the Euro IV for PM standard or above do not need to take any action. Vehicles older than 5 years and 3 months in 2012 may not meet the new standard.

Owners of vehicles that do not meet the required emissions standards or who have not registered with TfL and who drive within Greater London will have to pay a £200 (Euro 236) daily charge or risk a £1,000 (Euro 1181) penalty.

### **Larger vans, minibuses and specialist vehicles**

Larger vans, minibuses and certain specialist vehicles weighing over 1.205tonnes are now required to meet a LEZ emissions standard for the first time. Owners and operators of larger vans, minibuses or specialist vehicles, such as motorised horseboxes and caravans or 4 x 4 light utility vehicles must now meet a Euro 3 standard for PM to travel in London without paying a daily charge. Only vehicles over 10 years old in 2012 will not meet the new standard.

Owners of these vehicles that do not meet the required emissions standards or have not registered with TfL and who drive within Greater London will have to pay a £100 (Euro 118) daily charge or risk a £500 (Euro 591) penalty.

All affected vehicles registered outside Great Britain (including Northern Irish vehicles) need to be registered with TfL before they drive in Greater London to show that they meet the new standards.

The LEZ was introduced in 2008. The Zone covers almost all of Greater London and operates 7 days a week, every day of the year. The LEZ has been successful in delivering significant reductions in harmful vehicle emissions but the scheme now needs to go further to ensure London meets legally required air quality standards. TfL estimates that the changes to the LEZ will broadly double the impact of earlier phases in reducing harmful particulate matter pollution in the Capital. TfL would prefer operators to meet the LEZ standards and register, rather than pay the daily charge or risk a fine.

Nick Fairholme, TfL's Director of Congestion Charging and Traffic Enforcement, said: "Poor air quality poses a serious health threat to Londoners, especially the young and old, and it is a key aim of the Mayor to deliver cleaner air for London. The LEZ has been shown to deliver real improvements in air quality and these new standards will deliver significant additional benefits and are vital in our efforts to tackle air pollution."

Air pollution is a serious health issue in London contributing to an estimated 4,300 premature deaths in a year with many more people, especially children and the elderly, having their quality of life adversely impacted by it. London has to meet legally mandated European air quality standards and the LEZ is a key part of an integrated package of measures, including support for electric vehicles, age-limits for taxis and private hire vehicles and upgrading the London bus fleet, all designed to improve air quality.

Owners and operators of vehicles that do not meet the required standards have a number of options available to them to ensure they comply with the scheme, including:

- Fitting a filter to the vehicle to improve the emissions: TfL recognises accredited filter modifications from across Europe;
- Purchasing a newer vehicle that meets the standards;
- Reorganising a fleet so that only vehicles which meet the required emissions standards drive within the LEZ; or
- Paying the daily charge.

## **ENDS**

### Notes to Editors

1. The Low Emission Zone covers most of Greater London and all roads within Greater London, including parts of the M1 and M4 motorways. However, the M25 is not included (even where it passes within the Greater London boundary).
2. Cars, motorcycles and vans weighing under 1.205 tonnes unladen are **not** affected by the LEZ. Owners can check their vehicle documentation to confirm their vehicle details.
3. Owners and operators can obtain further information from the dedicated website ([www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon)) or by calling +44 207 310 8998.

4. From 3 January 2012, HGVs over 3.5 tonnes and buses and coaches over 5 tonnes with more than 8 passenger seats have to meet a Euro IV for PM standard to drive within the LEZ without charge.
5. From 3 January 2012, larger vans, minibuses and other specialist vehicles have to meet Euro 3 emissions standards for PM to drive within the LEZ without charge. This will affect:
  - Minibuses – with more than 8 passenger seats, plus the drivers seat below 5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW);
  - Larger vans and specialist vehicles such as horseboxes – between 1.205 tonnes unladen and 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight; and
  - Motorised caravans and ambulances between 2.5 tonnes and 3.5 tonnes GVW.
6. The LEZ is a key measure in helping London achieve compliance with European air quality directives. Road transport is the key source of air pollution in London.
7. Registration forms are available to download from [www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon) or can be obtained by calling +44 207 310 8998.
8. Registration forms and the required supporting documentation can be submitted to TfL by post or email. Once the registration form has been received by TfL, the operator will receive written confirmation (letter or email) of whether the registration has been successful or not. Vehicles driving within the zone prior to receipt of written confirmation of their successful registration must pay the daily charge or risk a penalty charge.
9. Operators can fit filters onto their vehicles to reduce the amount of PM pollution they emit. TfL recognises filters fitted in countries across Europe. Operators should include information and evidence regarding any vehicle modification in with their registration to TfL. Further details are available on the LEZ website.
10. Recovery of unpaid penalties issued to non GB registered vehicles is undertaken by a dedicated European debt recovery agency.

TfL Press Office  
0845 604 4141