

## Low emission zones United Kingdom

### London

The Greater London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) will come into force on 4 February 2008 and will apply 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It will initially apply to diesel-engined lorries of over 12 t GVW. From 7 July 2008, it will also apply to all lorries of over 3.5 t GVW as well as to buses and coaches (more than 9 seats and over 5 t GVW).

The LEZ covers most of Greater London and entry points will be signposted. (See map on <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/roadusers/lez/areaofoperation/>)

An information leaflet is also available in several languages on <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/default.aspx?lang=en>

### **LEZ emission standards**

The LEZ will target particulate matter (PM) level. For this reason, some Euro II and Euro I vehicles, registered before 1 October 2001, may meet the LEZ standards. For a list of eligible engines see <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/roadusers/lez/Eligible-Engines-List.pdf>

The LEZ emission standards are

- from February 2008, a standard of Euro III for PM for lorries of over 12 t
- from July 2008, a standard of Euro III for PM for lorries between 3.5 and 12 t, and for buses and coaches with more than 9 seats and over 5 t GVW
- from October 2010, a standard of Euro 3/III for PM for large vans and minibuses
- from January 2012, a standard of Euro 4/IV for PM for lorries of over 12 t, and for buses and coaches.

### **Enforcement**

The LEZ will be enforced using fixed and mobile cameras which will read the vehicle's number plate as it travels within the zone and will check it against a database of registered vehicles which

- comply with the LEZ emission standards, or
- have paid the daily charge, or
- are either exempt or registered for a 100% discount.

### **Registration**

Operators of foreign registered vehicles which meet the LEZ emission standards or which qualify for an exemption or 100% discount **must** register their vehicle details with *Transport for London* (TfL) to travel in the LEZ.

Registration forms with full instructions may be downloaded from <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/vehicles/2536.aspx>

Applications for registration must be received by TfL at least 10 working days before a vehicle can be driven within the LEZ. A separate form must be completed for each vehicle. TfL will send written confirmation of each successful application.

Vehicles will be subject to the daily charge (see below) if they travel within the LEZ before confirmation of registration has been received.

**Daily charge**

Vehicles which do not meet the standards or qualify for an exemption or a discount are subject to a daily charge to travel in the LEZ. This amounts to £200 for lorries, buses and coaches and £100 for large vans and minibuses. Payment can be made online, by phone or by post up to 64 days in advance of travel, on the day of travel or until midnight on the next working day after travelling in the LEZ.

Drivers should note that if their route passes through the London Congestion Charging Zone, they must pay the congestion charge in addition to any LEZ charges.

Furthermore, the daily charging period runs from midnight to midnight. Therefore, if drivers enter the LEZ before midnight and leave it after midnight, they must pay for two days.

**Penalty charge**

If a vehicle is identified as not meeting the LEZ emission standards and the required daily charge has not been paid for the date of travel within the LEZ, a penalty charge may be issued to the registered owner/operator of the vehicle. The penalty for vehicles of over 3.5 t amounts to £1000. If paid within 14 days, this will be reduced to £500; if not paid within 28 days, the penalty will be increased to £1500.

**Sources:** Transport for London, December 2007  
FTA, November 2007