



CPA Technical Guidance

London Low Equipment Zone (LEZ)

Introduction

The Greater London Authority's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) is an area inside the M25 covering most of Greater London, within which some plant and vehicles with diesel engines driving on the roads will have to retro-fit full flow diesel particulate filters (DPFs) or partial flow DPFs.

The London LEZ will start on 4th February 2008. It will initially apply to diesel-engined lorries and plant with road engines over 12 tonnes gross vehicle weight. From July 2008, it will also apply to lorries over 3.5 tonnes and buses and coaches. From October 2010 large vans and minibuses will also be covered by the LEZ.

The LEZ will not apply to cars, motorcycles or small vans (under 1.205 tonnes unladen weight) but it will apply to other road vehicles owned by most plant hire companies. These include lorries, beaver-tail lorries, low loaders and larger vans (above 1.205 tonnes).

TfL have issued guidance giving details of the LEZ rules and the exhaust emission standards that have been established. This can be obtained from Transport for London (TfL), telephone 0845 607 0009, or can be downloaded from their website at: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/2526.aspx>. The title of this guidance is "*The Low Emissions Zone - Cleaner Air for London*". This TfL guidance covers different types of road vehicles but does not give specific information on construction plant. This is addressed by this CPA guidance which will help you to find out if your plant is exempted from the LEZ and, if not, how to go about modifying your plant to meet the LEZ emission standards.

Plant and Vehicles that are Exempt

The LEZ has two sets of criteria in their guidance booklet that will exempt most plant and vehicles found in plant hire fleets. To quote the guidance booklet, the following are exempted:

1. *"Diesel engined vehicles exceeding 3.5 tonnes GVW first registered as new on or after 1st October 2001 are assumed to be Euro III so will meet the LEZ emission standards.*
2. *Diesel engined vehicles registered in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) will automatically be granted an exemption or 100% discount from the LEZ. These are:*

- *Vehicles designed and built for mainly off-road use, but which may use the road for limited purposes. Such vehicles include agricultural and forestry tractors, mowing machines, agricultural and farm machinery and equipment, mobile cranes and road and building construction machinery.*
- *Historic vehicles registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) before 1 January 1973.*
- *Military vehicles registered in Great Britain.*

These vehicles will not need to be registered with TfL and can drive within the zone without charge”.

Plant and vehicles that are exempted within the description “vehicles designed and built for mainly off-road use, but which may use the road for limited purposes”:

1. lorry mounted mobile cranes;
2. lorry mounted mobile elevating work platforms;
3. mobile pumping vehicles (including concrete pumps);
4. lorry mounted self-erecting tower cranes;
5. digging machines, i.e. backhoe loaders, front end loaders, skid steer loaders;
6. works trucks, i.e. site dumpers, rigid and articulated dump trucks, fork lifts and telehandlers;
7. road rollers;
8. road surfacing vehicles;
9. tar sprayers;
10. mowing machines;
11. tractors;
12. light agricultural tractors;
13. agricultural material handlers;
14. agricultural engines;
15. agricultural processing vehicles;
16. vehicles used between different parts of the land;
17. unlicensed vehicles not used on public roads.

Plant and vehicles that are not be exempted from the LEZ are those categories that frequently work on the roads and/or carry goods for hire and reward. These are:

1. van mounted work platforms;
2. lorry mounted concrete mixers;
3. lorry mounted mobile concrete batching plant;
4. lorry mounted road sweepers;
5. lorries with lorry loader cranes;
6. snow clearing machines;
7. gritters;
8. road construction vehicles;
9. any plant or vehicle that might use the roads for limited purposes but carries goods for hire and reward.

Checking Plant for Exemption or Compliance






You can check whether your plant and vehicles are exempt or whether they meet the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) emissions standards by calling 0845 607 0009, or by typing in the registration number into a “compliance checker” on the TfL website at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/2526.aspx>.

It is possible that the compliance checker will give the wrong answers. If you believe that your vehicles are exempt and/or incorrectly categorised, you should contact the LEZ call centre. You may have to register the vehicle and submit photographs of any unusual machines.

Emission Standards and “Modifying” Engines

The LEZ requires the vehicles that are not exempted to meet specified emissions standards. Vehicles that currently do not meet the LEZ emissions standards will have to be either “modified” to meet the standards or pay a daily charge.

Modifications will involve exhaust after treatment to be retro-fitted, that is, full flow or partial flow DPFs. Different vehicles will be affected over time and increasingly tougher emissions standards will apply as shown in the table below.

Vehicle type and definitions		Date affected	Required emission standards
Heavier lorries. Heavy diesel-engined vehicles exceeding 12 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight, including goods vehicles, motor caravans, motorised horseboxes and other specialist vehicles.		February 2008 Euro III January 2012 Euro IV	All Euro III vehicles meet the LEZ standard. Vehicles first registered as new on or after 1 October 2001 are assumed to be Euro III, so will meet the LEZ emissions standards. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards could be made to do so by modifying them to meet the Euro III standard for particulate matter. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards would need to pay a daily charge if used within the LEZ.
Lighter lorries. Heavy diesel-engined vehicles between 3.5 and 12 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight, including goods vehicles, motor caravans, motorised horseboxes and other specialist vehicles.		July 2008 Euro III	From January 2012 the required emissions standards are raised to Euro IV. All Euro IV vehicles will meet the LEZ standard. Vehicles first registered as new on or after 1 October 2006 are assumed to be Euro IV and so will meet the emissions standards. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards could be made to do so by modifying them to meet the Euro IV standard for particulate matter. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards would need to pay a daily charge if used within the LEZ.
Buses and coaches. Diesel-engined passenger vehicles with more than eight seats; plus the driver's seat; exceeding 5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight.		January 2012 Euro IV	
Large vans. Diesel-engined vehicles between 1.205 tonnes unladen and 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight and motor caravans and ambulances between 2.5 tonnes and 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight.		October 2010 Euro III	All Euro III vehicles will meet the LEZ standard. Vehicles registered as new on or after 1 January 2002 are assumed to be Euro III, so will meet the LEZ emissions standards. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards could be made to do so by modifying them to meet the Euro III standard for particulate matter. Vehicles not meeting the emissions standards would need to pay a daily charge if used within the LEZ.
Minibuses. Diesel-engined passenger vehicles with more than eight seats plus the driver's seat below 5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight.			

N.B. The vehicle weight is a good guide as to when your vehicle will be affected by the LEZ. If your type of vehicle does not appear here you should use the weight limits used for lorries and large vans as a guide and/or contact your vehicle manufacturer or Transport for London (TfL) for guidance.

Retro-fitting exhaust after-treatment normally involves fitting either a partial flow DPF or a full flow DPF. Only equipment which has been independently certified to achieve the required reduction will be accepted by Transport for London (TfL).

A full flow DPF could increase the Euro standard of a vehicle for particulate matter by two Euro standards (for example from Euro I to Euro III). Partial flow DPFs typically remove half of the particulate matter and therefore could increase the Euro standard by one Euro standard (for example from Euro II to Euro III or Euro III to Euro IV).

If you have had pollution abatement equipment fitted or another modification made to your vehicle then you will need to have the vehicle inspected by the Vehicle and

Operator Services Agency (VOSA). After a successful test VOSA will issue the vehicle with either a:

- **Reduced Pollution Certificate (RPC):** the Vehicles with this DVLA certificate may also qualify for lower Vehicle Excise Duty (VED).
- **Low Emission Certificate (LEC):** This is for modified vehicles not eligible for the RPC, but which still meet the LEZ requirements. It is issued by TfL.

Holders of an RPC or LEC will not need to register their vehicle with TfL as details will be passed on to TfL by VOSA.

Only devices which have been certified as providing sufficient reduction will be accepted by Transport for London (TfL). A list of currently approved traps and filters can be found at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/vehicles/options/2551.aspx>. Further information about types of particulate abatement equipment, manufacturers and suppliers and advice about which equipment is suitable is available from the Energy Saving Trust (EST) website at www.est.org.uk.

Be warned, it may not be necessary to modify some Euro II and a few Euro I vehicles registered before 1st October 2001 which may have sufficiently low particulate matter emissions that they meet the LEZ (Low Emission Zone) emissions standards in 2008 without modification.

To determine whether your engine will qualify you will need to know the engine manufacturer, the engine model and the engine type designation. There is an "LEC Eligible Engines list." Your vehicle's engine may be on the LEC Eligible Engines list only if:

1. Your vehicle was first registered before 1st October 1997 and has a Cummins L10 350E 11, Cummins L350E, Volvo D12A or Volvo D16A engine. These are the only four Euro I engines that are known to be eligible.
2. Your vehicle has a Euro II engine (first registered before 1st October 2001) and has an engine manufactured by Cummins, Daf, Detroit Diesel, Iveco, Isuzu Truck, Man, Mercedes, Renault, Scania, or Volvo.

If your vehicle meets either of the above conditions you should check the LEC Eligible Engines List to determine if your engine is listed. If your engine model matches the details of the engines on the LEC Eligible Engines List, you will be able to obtain the necessary certificate from VOSA.

To book for Low Emission Certificate (LEC) tests, contact your nearest Heavy Goods Vehicle Testing Station or ring the VOSA Enquiry Unit at 0870 60 60 440. The fee for a low emissions test is £28, though it can also be carried out at the same time as an annual vehicle test at the reduced price of £17. Additional arrangements can be made with local HGVTs to carry out inspections outside of VOSA's normal working hours or at appropriate designated premises.

Enforcement, Fines and Appealing against Fines

TfL are well aware of the possibility that, in the early days of the scheme, vehicles will be fined incorrectly. They have promised to take a pragmatic approach to this. However, there is already a procedure that has been established for enforcement.

There will be signs at the side of the road to inform drivers that they are entering the LEZ. The LEZ will be enforced through fixed and mobile cameras which will read number plates of vehicles which drive within the zone and check it against a database of vehicles. The database is made up of vehicles which meet the LEZ emissions standards, are exempt or registered for a 100% discount or have paid the daily charge.

Owners and operators of vehicles which do not meet the LEZ emissions standards will need to pay a daily charge of:

- £200 for lorries (over 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight) buses and coaches (exceeding 5 tonnes with more than 8 seats plus the driver's seat);
- £100 for large vans (between 1.205 and 3.5 tonnes), motor caravans and ambulances (between 2.5 and 3.5 tonnes), and minibuses (below 5 tonnes with more than 8 seats plus the driver's seat)

Operators of vehicles that do not meet the required standards and have not registered if required to do so or have not paid the daily charge, will be subject to a Penalty Charge Notice.

A Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) may be issued for each charging day that a vehicle does not meet the LEZ emissions standards and is driven into the zone without payment of the appropriate charge. The PCN amount is:

- £1,000 for lorries (over 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight) buses and coaches (exceeding 5 tonnes with more than 8 seats plus the driver's seat) which is reduced to £500 if paid within 14 days
- £500 for large vans (between 1.205 and 3.5 tonnes), motor caravans and ambulances (between 2.5 and 3.5 tonnes), and minibuses (below 5 tonnes with more than 8 seats plus the driver's seat) which is reduced to £250 if paid within 14 days.

If the PCN is not paid within 28 calendar days, the penalty increases to £1500 or £750 respectively and failure to pay this rate will result in registration of the debt with the County Court, increasing the amount owed to £1505 or £755.

If the outstanding amount is still not paid a warrant may be applied for and issued to bailiffs to recover the amounts due. Bailiff action may include seizure of goods and can include clamping and removal of the vehicle.

In addition to bailiff action, any vehicle with three or more outstanding PCNs which have escalated to and beyond £1500 and £750 respectively and which have no outstanding representations and appeals may also be clamped or removed if found on the streets anywhere in the Greater London area. The vehicle will then only be released on payment of all outstanding penalties and related enforcement costs.

Enforcement notices will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle at every stage of the process. Anyone who receives a PCN has a right to contest it. This

may be done through the TfL representations and appeals process and details of this process are provided with every PCN issued.

If a representation is rejected by TfL then operators can make an appeal to the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS), an independent body, telephone: 020 7747 4700, e-mail: patas.team@patas.gov.uk, website: www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk.

Further information about the LEZ can be found on the TfL website at www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon or by calling 0845 607 0009.

Further information about modifying your vehicle can be obtained from the Energy Savings Trust at www.est.org.uk or by calling 020 7222 0101.

Further information on the Reduced Pollution Certificate or the Low Emission Certificate can be found on www.transportoffice.gov.uk

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