

IMPORTANT. These notes are an interpretation of the LEZ regulations and are designed to introduce interested parties to the topic. They should not be taken as a definition of any law or proposed laws. Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of these notes, the ADF can accept no liability for any event arising from their use.

INTRODUCTION.

The Low Emission Zone (LEZ) was introduced on February 4 2008. The zone affects older, diesel-engined lorries, buses, coaches, large vans (exceeding 1.205 tonnes unladen weight) and minibuses (over eight seats plus the driver's seat and below 5 tonnes).

It also affects other specialist vehicles that are derived from lorries and vans, including motorised horse boxes, breakdown and recovery vehicles, refuse collection vehicles, snow ploughs, gritters, road sweepers, concrete mixers, tippers, removals lorries, fire engines, extended-cab dual purpose pick-ups and some light utility vehicles. Motor caravans, ambulances and large hearses (over 2.5 tonnes) are also included.

The LEZ applies to all vehicles, irrespective of whether they are used for commercial or private use.

Enforcement:

The Low Emission Zone is enforced using fixed and mobile cameras which will read vehicle registration number plates as vehicles enter the zone.

This information will then be checked against a database of those registered vehicles which meet the LEZ emissions standards, or are exempt from the charge or are registered for a 100 per cent discount.

Early in 2009 the London Mayor, Boris Johnson, announced his intention to suspend the third phase of the Low Emission Zone (LEZ), which would have affected much smaller vehicles, including vans and minibuses, and even family camper vans from October 2010.

Cars, motorcycles and small vans (under 1.205 tonnes unladen weight) are not included in the LEZ.

If a vehicle doesn't meet the LEZ emission standards or qualify for an exemption or discount, a daily charge will have to be paid.

If a vehicle driving within the zone is identified as not meeting the LEZ emissions standards and no daily charge has been paid, a Penalty Charge Notice may be issued to the vehicle's registered keeper, who will be responsible for paying it.

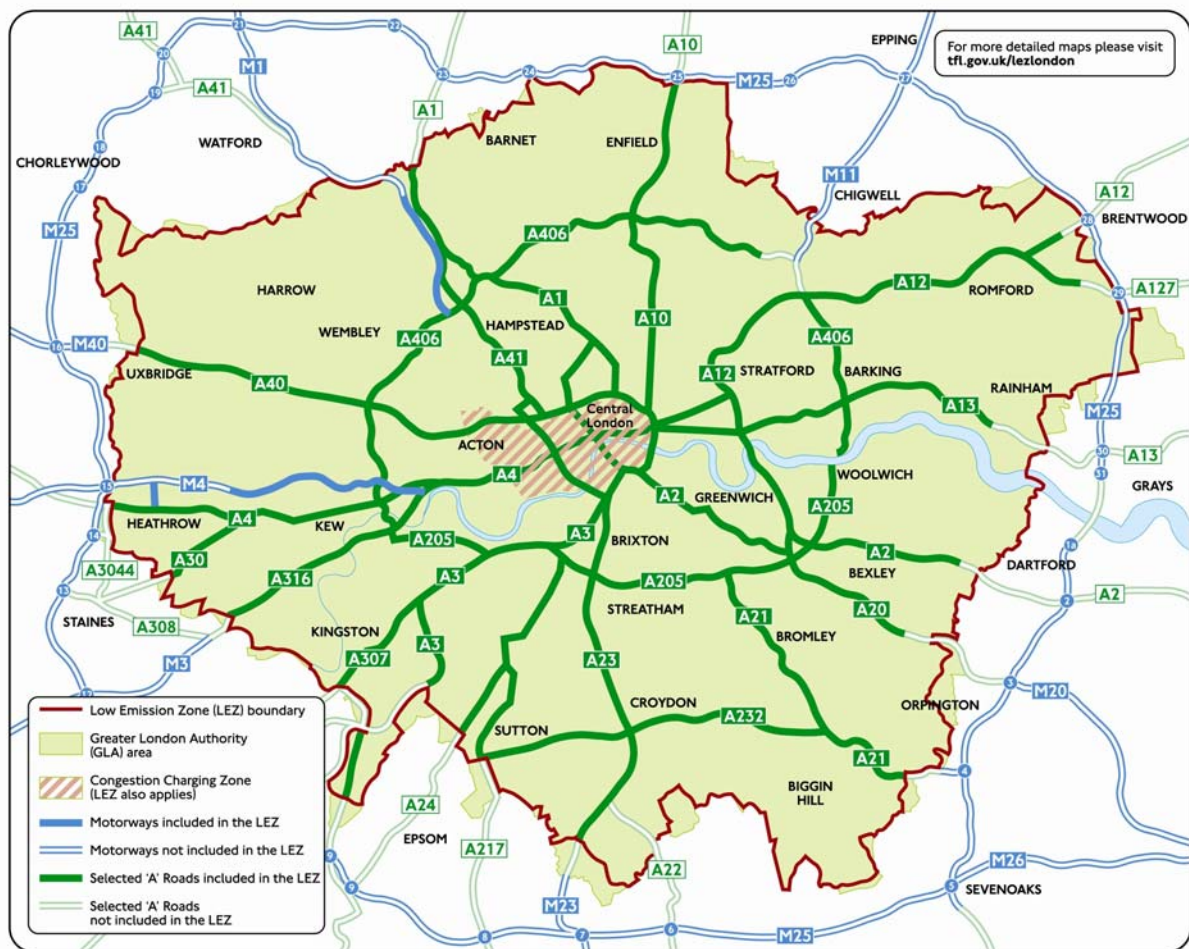
The emissions standards for the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) are based on Euro standards. These define the limits for exhaust emissions for new vehicles sold in European Union (EU) member states, and which vehicles must comply with when manufactured.

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The LEZ emissions standards are:

- From 4 February 2008, a standard of Euro III for particulate matter (PM) for lorries over 12 tonnes
- From 7 July 2008, a standard of Euro III for particulate matter for lorries between 3.5 and 12 tonnes and buses and coaches with more than eight seats plus the driver's seat over 5 tonnes.
- From 4 October 2010, a standard of Euro III for particulate matter for larger vans and minibuses
- From 3 January 2012, a standard of Euro IV for particulate matter for lorries over 3.5 tonnes and buses and coaches over 5 tonnes

The map below shows the area covered by LEZ:



© Map image copyright – Transport for London

Useful Information Sources

Full details of LEZ are available on the Transport for London (TfL) website at:

<http://tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/lez/>

To check if a particular vehicle is exempt from the LEZ charge go to:

<http://lezlondon.tfl.gov.uk/lez/vehicles/default.aspx>

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