



Tackling Air Quality in London

New Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)

A drivers guide from Alphabet

To improve air quality in the capital, from 08 April 2019 the London Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ) will be designated an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). This replaces the 'T Charge' introduced in 2017 but tighter emissions standards means it impacts a greater number of vehicles. Unlike the Congestion Charge, the ULEZ operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) at a glance

What? A £12.50 daily charge for most vehicle types (including cars, motorcycles and vans up to 3.5 tonnes) which do not meet Euro 4 petrol or Euro 6 diesel emissions standards. For motorbikes the new ULEZ standard is Euro 3 while for heavy goods vehicles the standard is Euro VI. The ULEZ charge for non-compliant heavy vehicles is £100 per day.

When? Starts 08 April 2019.

Where? Within the existing Congestion Charge Zone, using the same number plate recognition cameras and payment system. From October 2021 the ULEZ will expand to the inner London area bounded by the North and South Circular.

Why? To improve air quality by discouraging older vehicles that don't meet more recent emissions standards.

Who will be affected?

The new daily ULEZ charge applies to vehicles that do not meet the ULEZ exhaust emissions standards. The criteria is different depending on the type of vehicle you drive – cars, vans, motorbikes and heavy vehicles - whether it is diesel or petrol powered.

What types of vehicle does it cover?

For most cars and vans the new ULEZ emissions standard is **Euro 4 petrol** and **Euro 6 diesel** vehicles. This is likely to be petrol cars registered after January 2005 or diesel cars registered after September 2015.

For vans up to 3.5 tonnes (and minibuses not over 5 tonnes) the standard is also Euro 4 petrol and Euro 6 diesel, which likely means new diesel vans sold from September 2016 or petrol vans registered from January 2006.

Electric vehicles are exempt from the ULEZ charge but petrol or diesel hybrid vehicles need to conform to Euro 4 petrol or Euro 6 diesel standards.

The ULEZ standard for heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches is **Euro VI** (mandatory from January 2014).

For motorbikes and mopeds the standard is **Euro 3** which became mandatory for all new motorbikes in 2007.

The dates detailed here are only a guide as different manufacturers introduced these Euro emissions standards at different times for different vehicles. You will need to check your vehicle registration documents (V5C) or use Transport for London's online [ULEZ Vehicle Checker](#) to confirm the emissions standard for your vehicle

What or who are exempt?

Some drivers and vehicles qualify for a temporary discount, while some are completely exempt.

Congestion Charge Zone Residents

Residents registered for the Congestion Charge discount will get 100% ULEZ charge discount until 24 October 2021 to give them time to change their vehicle. Residents continue to pay the T-Charge at a discounted rate of 90% during this resident 'sunset' period.

Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

London Taxis are exempt from the ULEZ as they are subject to new emissions standards introduced in 2018.

Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) will need to meet the ULEZ standards or pay the daily charge. Designated wheelchair-accessible PHVs carrying out private hire bookings for TfL licensed operators will be exempt until 26 October 2025.

Historic Vehicles

All vehicles with a historic tax class (i.e. built more than 40 years ago) will be exempt – unless used commercially. All vehicles registered before 01 January 1973 will be exempt from the ULEZ regardless of use, commercial or otherwise.

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles are exempt from the ULEZ charge but hybrid vehicles need to conform to ULEZ standards.

Vehicles for Disabled People

Vehicles registered with a 'disabled' or 'disabled passenger vehicles' tax class will be exempt from the ULEZ charge until 26 October 2025. Blue Badge holders will need to pay the charge from April 2019 unless their vehicle meets the new ULEZ standards or is registered with DVLA as a 'disabled' or 'disabled passenger vehicle' tax class.

A small number of vehicle types, e.g. agricultural or military vehicles, which were exempt from the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) are also exempt from the ULEZ charge.

How will fleets be affected?

If you or your business lease your vehicles on a standard three year agreement, it's likely that your vehicle is already Euro 4 petrol or Euro 6 diesel compliant.

However, older vehicles will be affected and for businesses this will include privately-owned older cars in your 'grey fleet'. You will need to decide whether your business will pay the ULEZ charge in these cases or pass it on to drivers. For more information on 'grey fleet' vehicles [click here](#).

How does the ULEZ work?

The daily ULEZ charge is payable in addition to the Congestion Charge. Unlike the Congestion Charge Zone, the ULEZ charge operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including weekends and public holidays. The daily charge runs from 00:01 to midnight. If you drive within the ULEZ across two days – e.g. before midnight and after midnight – you will be liable to pay two daily charges if your vehicle doesn't meet ULEZ standards.

	Hours of Operation	Daily Charge	Penalty Charge
ULEZ Charge - most vehicle types	24 / 7	£12.50	£160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days)
ULEZ Charge - heavy vehicles	24 / 7	£100.00	£1,000 (reduced to £500 if paid within 14 days)
Congestion Charge	07:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday	£11.50	£160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days)

The ULEZ covers the same area as the current Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ) and uses the same automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

Every vehicle entering the ULEZ is checked against registration records. Entry signs at boundary points tell drivers when they are in the ULEZ, with advance information appearing on major roads approx. 0.5 miles from the boundary.

If you are already registered for Auto Pay for the London Congestion Charge, you need not do anything else.

How do I know if my vehicle is compliant?

Transport for London (TfL) has an online **ULEZ Charge Checker** at www.tfl.gov.uk/ulez.

Low Emission Zone changes in 2020

From 26 October 2020 emissions standards for the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) will tighten for the heaviest and most polluting vehicles to reflect the ULEZ Euro VI standard.

What you can do about the ULEZ charge

To avoid the ULEZ charge from April 2019 you need to ensure that you are driving a ULEZ compliant vehicle, e.g. Euro 4 petrol or Euro 6 diesel for a car or van.

You will still need to pay the Congestion Charge unless your vehicle also qualifies for TfL's Cleaner Vehicle Discount: i.e. meets Euro 6 standards, emits no more than 75g/km CO₂ and has a minimum 20 miles zero emission capable range.

ULEZ boundary expansion in 2021

From 25 October 2021 the ULEZ will be extended to create a larger zone between North and South Circular.

Summary

This is a positive step for London's air quality and reflects advances in modern diesel technology. The difference in emissions output between Euro 5 and Euro 6 diesel is transformative, which is why the latest diesel engines are ULEZ compliant.

From a fleet perspective, businesses who lease vehicles are likely to find that the majority of vehicles are already ULEZ compliant due to the regular change cycle. Older vehicles and employee-owned 'grey fleet' however could be liable for the ULEZ charge, in addition to the Congestion Charge.

The new London ULEZ and development of Clean Air Zones (CAZs) around the UK means it is more important than ever for fleet decision-makers to know the emissions standards of their vehicles, as well as the geographical locations where these vehicles are being used.

More information

Transport for London: www.tfl.gov.uk/ulez