



LOW EMISSION ZONES KEEP AIR PURE AND PROTECT HEALTH

Good air quality is in the interest of us all, and serves first and foremost to protect human health. In our mobile society, we are all contributing to the high concentrations of fine dust (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide in environmentally stressed areas adjoining roads. On the other hand we are frequently affected ourselves, if we happen to live next to a very busy thoroughfare. Keeping air pure is therefore a task for the community.

To improve this situation – above all in areas where critical values are exceeded – we have worked out 14 pure air schemes and action plans to date for particularly stressed regions of Baden-Württemberg. Low emission zones are a central feature of these plans, involving a ban on vehicles with high emission levels. This may appear restrictive, but it is unavoidable. Low emission zones make an indispensable contribution to clean air – and to better health, above all – for the people who live, work or go to school in the main regions affected.

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Baden-Württemberg
UMWELTMINISTERIUM

Low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg

Low emission zones

WHEN DO LOW EMISSION ZONES BECOME EFFECTIVE, AND WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Low emission zones come into force from 1 March 2008, in the following cities of Baden-Württemberg in the first instance: Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg, Leonberg, Mannheim, Reutlingen, Tübingen, Schwäbisch Gmünd and Ilsfeld. Further low emission zones are in the pipeline.

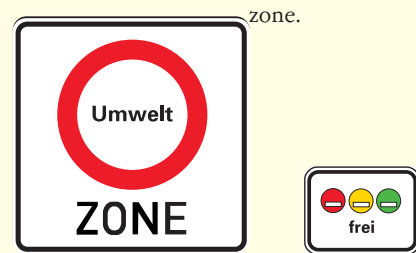


LOW EMISSION ZONE – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Low emission zones are clearly delimited, generally urban areas where a ban on vehicles with high emission levels applies. Concentrations of fine dust and nitrogen dioxide in excess of the critical values occur in Baden-Württemberg only in areas adjoining roads. Consequently road traffic is a factor of major importance in the endeavour to provide clean air. The quality of air can be improved by restricting traffic in low emission zones.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I AM IN A LOW EMISSION ZONE?

A new traffic sign has been incorporated in the Road Traffic Regulations to designate low emission zones. An additional sign indicates the coloured stickers vehicles must have to enter a low emission



WHAT VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER A LOW EMISSION ZONE?

Only vehicles (both passenger cars and lorries) that conform to certain exhaust emission standards and can show their conformity by displaying a coloured sticker on the windshield, are allowed to enter a low emission zone. Vehicles with particularly high emission levels will not be given a sticker. Such vehicles may not enter the low emission zone at all.

IS THE BAN FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY?

With a view to permanent improvement of the air quality, traffic restrictions in low emission zones are imposed for an indefinite period. The restrictions apply whether or not the current level of air pollution on certain days is high or low.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I ENTER A LOW EMISSION ZONE WITHOUT AUTHORISATION?

Driving in a low emission zone without a sticker (except in cases where exceptional permission has been granted) will cost you a fine of 40 Euros, and will also earn you a point in Flensburg.

Stickers

WHY STICKERS?

The stickers serve to label vehicles in accordance with their emission levels. This facilitates the control of traffic restrictions for vehicles with poor exhaust emission values. This labelling scheme applies throughout Germany and involves four emissions groups based on the European exhaust emission standards (the 'Euro standards'). The stickers show the number of the emissions group and come in different colours. Vehicles belonging to emissions group 1 will not be issued a sticker.



As of 1 March 2008, only vehicles carrying one of these stickers, or those that have been granted a special exemption, may enter any of the eight low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg. Further low emission zones are planned. In the next phase of the scheme starting on 1 January 2012, the ban on driving in low emission zones will be extended to vehicles with a red sticker as well. More stringent restrictions on vehicles with yellow or green stickers are not envisaged in Baden-Württemberg at present.



WHAT KIND OF STICKER DOES MY CAR GET?

This will be based on the emissions code (Emissionsschlüsselnummer) which is entered in your vehicle documents; if you have documents showing that a particle filter has been retrofitted, this may also be a relevant factor. On old certificates of registration, the code is entered in the field marked 'Code for 1' ('Schlüsselnummer zu 1') – see illustration above; in the new registration certificate format it will be found in field 14.1 – see illustration on right.

Stickers	Petrol engine		Diesel engine	
	Passenger car	Lorries/buses goods vehicles	Passenger car	Lorries/buses goods vehicles
			25 bis 29 35, 41, 71	20 bis 22 33, 43, 53 60, 61
			30, 31, 36 37, 42, 44 bis 52, 72	34, 44, 54 70, 71
	01, 02, 14, 16, 18 bis 70, 71 bis 75, 77	30 bis 55, 60, 61, 70, 71, 80, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91	32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 53 bis 70, 73 bis 75	35, 45, 55, 80, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91

Based on the emissions code, the following listing will show you what kind of sticker your vehicle qualifies for. If you have had an exhaust treatment system retrofitted, like a diesel soot filter for example, you may qualify for a better emissions group.

WHERE DO I GET MY STICKER AND WHAT DOES IT COST?

Stickers may be obtained from the vehicle licensing authorities of urban and district councils, as well as from authorised centres that are entitled to test exhaust emissions. These include qualified testing organisations like Dekra, GTÜ, TÜV and other technical test centres, as well as garages authorised to test exhaust emissions (of which there are now more than 5,600 in Baden-Württemberg). To obtain a sticker you will need to have your vehicle papers, though at some licensing authorities it may be enough just to give the number of your car's licence plate. A sticker may be acquired anywhere in the Federal Republic of Germany and will apply indefinitely in any low emission zone in Germany unless the vehicle's licence plate number is changed. The price of a sticker will be set by the issuing authorities themselves. As a rule it will cost something like 5 to 10 Euros.

FOREIGN VEHICLES

Vehicles registered in countries other than Germany likewise require a sticker. This will be issued in accordance with the European emissions standard on which the vehicle's registration is based. If this is not shown in the vehicle documents or by any other documentary evidence, a sticker will be issued in accordance with the original registration date of the vehicle. Foreign vehicles can obtain stickers from the same issuing authorities referred to above.

In addition to this, stickers can be ordered by post, by e-mail or when making a hotel booking. You will need to submit a copy of the vehicle papers or another official document showing the original registration date and the type of the vehicle (diesel engine / petrol engine, passenger car / lorry). Stickers also can be ordered from abroad at the websites of the authorised testing organisations: www.dekra.de, www.tuev-sued.de and www.gtue.de.

Retrofitting...

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH VEHICLES THAT RUN ON DIESEL?

Retrofitting makes an important contribution to air purity and the protection of health, as the emission of fine dust from a diesel passenger car can be reduced by as much as 30 to 60 percent. A wide range of retrofitting options are available for many car models. You can find out whether your vehicle is suitable for retrofitting by entering data from your certificate of registration online at www.feinstaubplakette.de or www.feinstaub.gtue.de. These sites also show which sticker you can expect to obtain as a result of retrofitting. For more detailed information and advice about the technical options, please consult your local garage.

WHAT ABOUT VEHICLES THAT RUN ON PETROL?

Vehicles running on petrol with a three-way catalytic converter will as a rule be given a green sticker or a special exemption. Vehicles without a three-way catalytic converter or equipped with a catalytic converter without lambda probe may obtain a green sticker if a three-way catalytic converter is retrofitted. Retrofitting will result automatically in reclassification of the vehicle in terms of the exhaust standards and so reduce the motor vehicle tax to be paid.



... Tax incentives

WHAT CONDITIONS DO I NEED TO MEET TO QUALIFY FOR TAX BENEFITS?

There are tax incentives for the retrofitting of particle reduction systems in passenger vehicles that run on diesel. The installation must be carried out in the period from 01.01.2006 to 31.12.2009. Vehicles with a first-time registration date later than 31.12.2006 will not qualify for benefits. The retrofitting must achieve a reduced level of particle emissions as defined by the Road Traffic Licensing Regulations (Strassenverkehrs-Zulassungsordnung).

HOW MUCH DO THE BENEFITS COME TO?

If you retrofit a passenger car running on diesel with a particle filter, you qualify for a one-off motor vehicle tax credit to the amount of 330 Euros. The vehicle will be exempt from motor vehicle tax until the waived tax liability reaches 330 Euros. Vehicles that are in any case exempt from motor vehicle tax, in whole or in part, will not receive tax benefits or can only qualify for a percentage.

HOW DO I GET THE BENEFIT?

You should have the vehicle retrofitted by a garage that is authorised to carry out exhaust emission testing (Abgasuntersuchung / AU) and obtain an acceptance certificate for presentation to the vehicle licensing authority. If the retrofitting has been carried out by another garage, an acceptance test must be carried out by an officially qualified expert, and an appropriate certificate provided. The vehicle licensing authority will make the corresponding entries in the field 'Remarks' ('Bemerkungen') of the vehicle documents, showing the level or class of reduced particle emissions, the type of filter, etc.). The emissions group of the vehicle (e.g. Euro 2) is on the whole unlikely to change.

Exceptions from road traffic restrictions

WHAT EXCEPTIONS APPLY GENERALLY?

In accordance with the labelling regulations, certain vehicles may as a general rule enter low emission zones without a sticker. These include mobile machines and equipment, driven engines, agricultural and forestry tractors, two-wheeled and three-wheeled motor vehicles, ambulances and doctors' cars displaying 'Emergency medical services' ('Arzt im Notfalleinsatz'), vehicles carrying exceptionally handicapped persons, vehicles with special privileges based on § 35 of the Road Traffic Regulations (Strassenverkehrsordnung / StVO) (police, disaster control vehicles, vehicles belonging to the armed services) and vintage cars with a vintage car licence plate.

WHAT FURTHER EXCEPTIONS APPLY IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG?

Based on the exceptions scheme that applies throughout the Federal State, the fundamental principle of 'retrofitting before exemption' is the first thing to be taken into account. An exception will only be made to this general requirement if it is not possible, in technical terms, to retrofit a vehicle, or if the cost of retrofitting would exceed the value of the vehicle itself.

If a vehicle cannot be retrofitted, the following trips are exempt from the traffic restrictions in low emission zones:

- Trips made to supply the population with necessary goods, in particular deliveries to food retailers, to pharmacies, hospitals and other such public institutions, as well as deliveries to weekly or one-off markets.

- Trips made to provide the population with necessary services, in connection with the maintenance and repair of crucial technical facilities, remedial work on damaged buildings (including damage to water, gas and electrical systems) or for the provision of social services or nursing care, as well as special vehicles like cranes, heavy load transporters and special tractor vehicles belonging to travelling circuses, exhibitions and the like.

Likewise exempt are trips made by vintage cars without a vintage car licence plate, vehicles running on petrol with a three-way catalytic converter and with codes 03, 04, 09 or 11, as well as test drives and vehicle transfer operations with a red short-term licence plate.

In important isolated cases it is possible to apply for an authorisation for special trips, e.g. for regularly required medical visits (for example, to dialysis patients), trips made by shift workers where no local public transport is available or trips made with the object of keeping manufacturing and production processes going. Here again it is an essential condition that the vehicle cannot be retrofitted.

Individual exceptions apply as a rule to all low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN AN EXEMPTION?

Exemptions are issued by the road traffic authorities of the city of Stuttgart, the Heilbronn Regional Council Office (for the Ilsfeld low emission zone) and the Ostalbkreis Regional Council Office (for the Schwäbisch Gmünd low emission zone), as well as by the Immission Control Authorities (Immissionsschutzbehörden) of the city of Mannheim and the Regional Council Offices of Böblingen (for the Leonberg low emission zone), Ludwigsburg, Reutlingen and Tübingen.

Further information

INFORMATION ABOUT LOW EMISSION ZONES

You can find further information relating to air purification schemes, action plans and low emission zones at the website of the Ministry for the Environment of Baden-Württemberg:

www.um.baden-wuerttemberg.de

under 'Umweltzonen und Nachrüstung' ['Low emission zones and retrofitting']

or from the regional government offices of the Federal State:

www.rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de

INFORMATION ON STICKERS AND RETROFITTING

OPTIONS MAY BE FOUND AT

www.feinstaubplakette.de and

www.feinstaub.gtue.de

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