

HANNOVER BREATHES EASY



Hannover Low Emission Zone

Answers to the most common questions



What is a Low Emission Zone?

A restricted area from which motor vehicles with high fine dust and nitrogen oxide emissions are banned, – These are caused mainly by diesel-engined vehicles (cars and heavy goods vehicles). But also petrol engine vehicles without a controlled catalytic converter are affected by the ban. These vehicle groups will be refused access to the city centre in three stages. With the help of a compulsory permit disc (“Plakette”) compliance with the new regulations can be monitored.

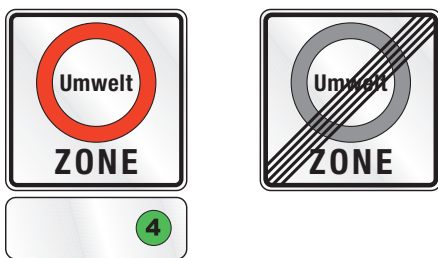
The Low Emission Zone was introduced in Hannover on 1.1.2008. For vehicles with a foreign number plate display of a permit disc applies in Hannover as from 1.1.2009.

What are the benefits?

Motor vehicle exhausts give off fine dust and nitrogen oxides into the air. Both pollutants cause a considerable increase in the risk of illnesses. They can cause ailments such as asthma, pulmonary diseases and can lead to heart and circulation disorders. In the worst case fine dust can trigger off cancer. Finally these pollutants lead to a reduced life expectancy in the case of the sick. Introduction of the Low Emission Zone together with other clean air plan measures aim to reduce this health risk for people in the city of Hannover.

How do I recognise an Low Emission Zone?

It is marked by road signs on its borders. The Low Emission Zone discs on the additional sign show which vehicles can enter the zone. A sign shows when you are leaving the Low Emission Zone.



Which vehicles are allowed into the Low Emission Zone?

As from 2009 only cars displaying a yellow or green disc may drive within the Low Emission Zone. From 2010 onwards the Low Emission Zone is open only to vehicles with a green disc. The allocation is made according to the emission categories named below.

disc vehicle	2	3	4
	diesel Euro 2 Euro II	diesel Euro 3 Euro III	diesel Euro 4, Euro IV und V, petrol with ap- proved catalytic converter

The regulations as to the allocation of the discs include general exemptions from the driving ban for particular vehicles. These include mobile machinery and appliances, work machines, farming and forestry tractors, motorcycles, ambulances, doctors' vehicles on emergency calls, vehicles driven by or carrying disabled persons (classified 'aG', 'H' or 'Bl' in their Disability Pass) and vehicles with special rights under § 35 of the general traffic regulations ('Straßenverkehrsordnung') such as police and fire brigade, and historic vehicles with additional 'H' or '07' number plates. These vehicles do not need permit discs. Upon request an authorization pass can be issued free of charge. The blue disabled parking authorization is valid as proof of the a.m. exemption.



Where is the Low Emission Zone?

It covers the area bounded by the Süd-schnellweg, Westschnellweg and Messe-schnellweg urban motorways and Sahlkamp to the north.

A map showing the borders is published on the internet in www.hannover-umweltzone.de. Addresses can also be requested and it is shown whether these lie within or outside the Low Emission Zone. The map can be obtained from the Geoinformation of the City of Hannover, Rudolf-Hillebrecht-Platz 1.



SAHLKAMP

LIST

OSTSTADT

SÜDSTADT

RICKLINGEN

DÖHREN

WALDHEIM

WALDHAUSEN

BULT

LSG

MITTEL

ZOO

What penalties can I expect for driving into the Low Emission Zone without a permit?

A 40 € fine and a penalty point in the Central Register of Traffic Offenders in Flensburg. Please note that here both driving and parking of the vehicle is forbidden.

What if my vehicle doesn't get a yellow or green disc?

Vehicles classified as Euro 2/II or 3/III can be upgraded to the next category of pollutants by retrofitting a particulate filter. For petrol engines, retrofitting an approved catalytic converter may be possible. In special cases some vehicles may be exempted from the driving ban.

The 'Deutsche Umwelthilfe' organisation has set up a free 'Rußfrei-Hotline' about retrofitting vehicles and suitable filters for diesel engines.

Telephone 0800 | 78 77 37 34. Also under the internet address www.partikelfilter-nachruesten.de suitable information can be found.

Exemption rules – permits to drive into the Low Emission Zone

General exemptions

Hannover City Council has made general exemptions for some vehicle categories, which will be valid **until 31.12.2011**:

- Petrol-engined vehicles with an approved catalytic converter that have not been given a green permit disc
- Funfair wagons for events within the Low Emission Zone, (e.g. ‘Schützenfest’ – German ‘marksmen’s festival’) for the journey to the venue and back after end of event Proof of participation at the event must be carried and shown on demand.
- Public transport buses
- Coaches
- Vehicles with temporary number plates

Still **until 31.12.2009**

- Vehicles that run on biodiesel or rapeseed oil. The vehicle manufacturer’s or a vehicle workshop certificate showing that the specific vehicle can run on biodiesel or rapeseed oil must be carried and shown on demand.
- Vehicles with red temporary number plates (‘trade plates’) are excluded from the driving ban.

An application to be exempted is not necessary. The motor registration certificate, number plate or particular type of vehicle are sufficient proof, respectively the aforementioned proofs. Upon request the City Council will issue a proof of authorization relating to the vehicle.

Further single exemptions can be made by Hannover City Council according to § 1 paragraph 2 of the vehicle registration regulations (‘Kennzeichnungsverordnung’) upon request, in order to avoid any particular hardship which may be connected with a driving ban.

The following information applies **for 2010 and 2011**; for exemptions still in 2009 please apply directly to the respective office (see last page).

Basic condition for granting of an exemption is always that the vehicle in question cannot be retrofitted in such a way as to make a claim for the green disc applicable.

If, additionally it is a vehicle, which fulfils the EURO-Norm 3, then an exemption can be granted without any further examination of the financial circumstances.

Special-purpose vehicles, i. e. cars which are equipped with costly superstructures, conversions or fixtures can be issued an exemption if they travel less than 2.000 km/year within the Hannover Low Emission Zone. Under this category are e.g. converted campers or workshop trade vehicles. Vehicles used for delivery purposes cannot claim this exemption as their vehicle mileage exceeds the named limit.

If purchase of a replacement vehicle or the respective filter has been made then an exemption can be requested until delivery.

Exemptions for business people, professionals/freelancers etc.

- A general exemption can be granted if the purchase of a suitable replacement vehicle would lead to a risk of the company's existence. Proof of this must generally be provided by the tax advisor.
- If the vehicle is required in order to carry out a particular short-term order within the Low Emission Zone, then an exemption will be granted for the duration thereof.

Exemption regulations for private persons

Persons with a main or second domicile within the Low Emission Zone, or for whom the use of public local passenger services represents an exceptional burden (e.g. Disability "G", start of work outside the operating times of the Public transport) can be given an exemption, if the purchase of a suitable replacement vehicle is not economically reasonable. This is usually the case, if the monthly net family income for single persons does not exceed 1.290 €, for three 2.470 € and for four 2.970 € respectively. In cases of higher income each case will be given individual consideration.

The exemption permit entitles the applicant to move freely with the vehicle within the Low Emission Zone.

A charge will be made for the exemption permit: the charges are:

12,- €	for single journey resp. a period of up to 7 days
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120,- €	for all other exemptions
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In the case of benefits according to SGB II (Unemployment II) or SGB XII (Basic minimum flow of income) the charge is reduced to 20,- €. Charges, already rendered for a permanent permit in 2008/09 shall be offset.

Applications can be made in writing to

Fachbereich Umwelt und Stadtgrün

OE 67.1 UZ

Prinzenstraße 4

30159 Hannover

or at the Hannover 'Bürgerämter' citizens bureaux.

Application forms for exemption permits are available there or can be downloaded from www.hannover-umweltzone.de.

Where do I get the discs, and how much do they cost?

Permit discs are available at all approved vehicle testing stations, 'AU' approved garages and vehicle registration offices. In Hannover all the 'Bürgerämter' also issue discs. Take the registration certificate ('Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil I, Fahrzeugschein'). Charge: 5.40 €.

Do I have to buy a permit disc?

This is up to you. If you do not intend to drive into or across a Low Emission Zone you do not need a permit disc. Please bear in mind that other local authorities are also planning Low Emission Zones and you may need a permit disc for journeys to other towns as you may have to pass through a Low Emission Zone.

Are there Low Emission Zones in other cities?

All cities and towns where the air pollution limits are exceeded must set up a clean air programme. One measure could be Low Emission Zones.

Information on the whole of Germany is available from the 'Umweltbundesamt', tel. 0340 | 2103-0 or on www.uba.de.

Further Information

Landeshauptstadt Hannover

Fachbereich Umwelt und Stadtgrün

Bereich Umweltschutz

Prinzenstraße 4 | 30159 Hannover

www.hannover.de

Telephone **for exemptions** 0511 | **168** | **40601** and

0511 | **168** | **46926**

for general information 0511 | **168** | **46607**

Fax 0511 | **168** | **43689**

Email umweltzone@hannover-stadt.de

Vehicle registration office

Am Schützenplatz 1 | 30169 Hannover

Telephone 0511 | **168** | **44539**

Fax 0511 | **168** | **41193** & **41520**

Email kfz-zulassungsbehoerde@hannover-stadt.de

Landeshauptstadt

Hannover

The Lord Mayor

Environment and
City Greenspace

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www.hannover.de

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