



Low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR VERKEHR UND INFRASTRUKTUR



LOW EMISSION ZONES ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH

Dear Citizens,

the purpose of mobility is to improve the quality of life. It must not put human life at risk. The use of private automobiles must be restricted if it significantly pollutes the air and thus poses a serious threat to human health. Road traffic, a source of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, is one of the main causes of air pollution.

Low emission zones are vitally important means of lowering the content of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere. Twenty-four communities in Baden-Württemberg have now instituted clean air policies, and others will soon complete their work. Most of these plans establish low emission zones that prohibit entry by vehicles with high emissions.

To ensure the effectiveness of these low emission zones, the state government has significantly reduced the number of possible exceptions from driving bans. Without taking these steps it would be impossible to comply with the EU limits on nitrogen dioxide for roads with heavy traffic and poor air circulation.

The stricter requirements are designed to improve our air quality and promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles.

Gisela Splett

State Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

Low emission zones

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

Low emission zones have been established in the following cities of Baden-Württemberg: Stuttgart, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Heilbronn, Ulm, Pforzheim, Reutlingen, Ludwigsburg, Tübingen, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Leonberg, Herrenberg, Mühlacker, Pfinztal, Markgröningen, Ilsfeld and Pleidelsheim. From January 1, 2012, further low emission zones will come into force in Freiburg am Neckar, Heidenheim, Ingersheim and Urbach. Schramberg has not yet reached a decision.



LOW EMISSION ZONE – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Low emission zones are clearly delimited, generally urban areas where a ban on vehicles with high emission levels applies. Concentrations of particulates 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 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 zone.



WHICH VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER A LOW EMISSION ZONE?

Driving in low emission zones is only allowed to vehicles which have a sticker that is permitted in the low emission zone. Vehicles which are not given a sticker due to their high emission levels may not enter low emission zones. Driving in a low emission zone where a ban on vehicles applies is only allowed if a vehicle has special permission or if general exceptions have been issued for certain kinds of trips.

WHEN DOES THE BAN ON VEHICLES COME INTO FORCE?

From January 1, 2012, only vehicles with a green sticker will be allowed to enter the low emission zone of Stuttgart. In all other low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg, vehicles will only be allowed to enter if they have a yellow or green sticker. From January 1, 2013, the plan is to allow only vehicles with a green sticker. This will apply to all low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg.

IS THE BAN ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME?

With a view to permanent improvement of 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.

BANS ON LORRY TRAFFIC

In some low emission zones (Stuttgart, Markgröningen, Pleidelsheim, Ingersheim, Freiburg am Neckar, Leonberg, Ditzingen) there is an additional ban on lorries with maximum permissible total weights of 3.5 tonnes and above (delivery traffic is permitted).

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. The 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.



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

Driving in a low emission zone without a sticker or with a sticker that does not conform to the regulations in the low emission zone (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 the national traffic penalty register.



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/busses goods vehicles | Passenger car | Lorries/busses goods vehicles |
| | | | 25 to 29 35, 41, 71 | 20 to 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 to 70, 71 to 75, 77 | 30 to 55, 60, 61, 70, 71, 80, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91 | 32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 53 to 70, 73 to 75 | 35, 45, 55, 80, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91 |
| vehicles complying with standards Euro 5 or 6 | | | | |

Based on the last two digits of the emissions code, the listing above 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 to obtain stickers

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 8 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, stickers can be ordered by post, by e-mail or when booking a hotel. 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 quality and the protection of health, as the emission of particulates 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 one of the Web sites shown on the last page below under 'Further information'. 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. Starting in 2012, there will be federal funding to encourage retrofitting: www.bafa.de/bafa/de/index.html

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.



Exceptions from road traffic restrictions

WHICH EXCEPTIONS APPLY GENERALLY?

Stickers are issued to cars and lorries in accordance with the labelling regulations. There are no regulations for other kinds of vehicles, such as two-wheeled and three-wheeled motor vehicles, agricultural tractors and forestry tractors. Consequently, they are allowed to enter low emission zones. Thus far, bans apply only to motor vehicles and not to mobile machines and equipment or operating machinery. There is also a general exception for ambulances, doctors' cars displaying 'Emergency medical services' ('Arzt im Notfalleinsatz'), vehicles carrying exceptionally handicapped persons, vehicles with special privileges based on Section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulations (Straßenverkehrsordnung / StVO) (police, fire services, disaster control vehicles, vehicles belonging to the armed services) and vintage cars with a vintage car number plate.

WHICH FURTHER EXCEPTIONS APPLY IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG?

Based on the exceptions scheme that applies throughout Baden-Württemberg, the fundamental principle is 'retrofitting before exemption'. An exception to this general requirement will only be made for vehicles which are not given a sticker and were registered in the name of the actual owner before November 1, 2007 and

- if it is not possible, in technical terms, to retrofit the vehicle and
- if there is no alternative vehicle available that is licensed under the vehicle holder's name and
- if replacement would be inordinately expensive.

In case a car is given a red or yellow sticker the above mentioned deadline for registration to the actual owner is January 1, 2010. If these conditions are fulfilled, an exemption can be given for the following trips in low emission zones:

- Trips made to supply the population with necessary goods, in particular deliveries to food retailers, to pharmacies, homes for senior citizens, 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.
- Trips with special vehicles like cranes, heavy load transporters and special tractor vehicles belonging to travelling circuses, exhibitions and the like.
- Trips made by passenger cars with a three-way catalytic converter and with codes 04, 09 or 11.
- Holiday trips by motor caravans when the owners have their place of residence in the low emission zone.
- Trips made in important individual cases, e.g. for regularly required medical visits (for example to dialysis patients), trips made by shift workers where no local public transport is available, trips made to keep manufacturing and production processes going or individual trips for special occasions.

Individual exceptions apply as a rule to all low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg with bans of the same level (sticker colour) and for the same trip purpose. When driving in Baden-Württemberg's low emission zones drivers have to carry their exceptional permission as evidence. When they park, they must display this permission in such a way that it is clearly visible from outside the vehicle.

Test drives and vehicle transfer operations with a short term licence plate, with a red licence plate or an export licence plate are generally exempted. In this case exemptions are not necessary.

Exemptions for motor vehicles without a sticker or with a red sticker apply only until December 31, 2012. New exemptions or extensions are not allowed after this date.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN AN EXEMPTION?

Exemptions are issued by the authorities of the cities of Stuttgart, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Heilbronn, Ulm and Pforzheim as well as by the administrations of the following districts: Böblingen (for Leonberg and Herrenberg), Enzkreis (for Mühlacker), Heilbronn (for Ilsfeld), Heidenheim (for Heidenheim), Karlsruhe (for Pfinztal), Ludwigsburg (for Freiberg a.N., Ingersheim, Ludwigsburg, Markgröningen and Pleidelsheim), Ostalbkreis (for Schwäbisch Gmünd), Rems-Murr (for Urbach), Reutlingen (for Reutlingen), Rottweil (planned low emission zone for Schramberg) and Tübingen (for Tübingen).

Only authorities in charge of a low emission zone can issue exemptions for vehicles which are banned due to their sticker colour in this low emission zone. If bans are applied in 2012 for vehicles with yellow stickers only in the Stuttgart low emission zone, exemptions for driving vehicles with yellow stickers can only be issued by the city of Stuttgart.

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 of Transport and Infrastructure, Baden-Württemberg:

www.mvi.baden-wuerttemberg.de

under 'Luftreinhaltepläne und Umweltzonen' ['Air purification schemes and low emission zones'].

at the websites of the regional government offices of the Federal State: www.rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de

or at the websites of the cities with low emission zones.

INFORMATION ON STICKERS AND RETROFITTING OPTIONS MAY BE FOUND AT

www.feinstaubplakette.de

www.feinstaub.gtue.de

www.partikelfilter-nachruesten.de

www.bafa.de/bafa/de/index.html

REGISTRATION FACILITY FOR VEHICLES WITHOUT RETROFITTING SYSTEM AVAILABLE YET

www.katundfiltersuche.de

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