



# Low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg



Baden-Württemberg  
MINISTERIUM FÜR VERKEHR UND INFRASTRUKTUR



## LOW EMISSION ZONES: FOR PROTECTING 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-seven communities in Baden-Württemberg have now instituted clean air policies. Most of these plans establish low emission zones in which the use of vehicles with high emissions is prohibited.

On roads with heavy traffic and poor air circulation our vehicles are still not complying with the EU limits, particularly the limits on nitrogen oxide. The air purification schemes and low emission zones are designed to improve our air quality and promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles.

Gisela Splett MdL

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: Freiberg am Neckar, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Heidenheim, Heilbronn, Herrenberg, Ingersheim, Ilsfeld, Karlsruhe, Leonberg, Ludwigsburg, Mannheim, Markgröningen, Mühlacker, Pleidelsheim, Pfinztal, Pforzheim, Reutlingen, Schramberg, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Stuttgart, Tübingen, Ulm, Urbach and Wendlingen. On January 1, 2013, the first regional low emission zone came into force. Called 'Ludwigsburg and environs', it includes the previous low emission zones of Ludwigsburg, Markgröningen, Pleidelsheim, Freiberg am Neckar and Ingersheim plus Asperg, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Kornwestheim, Möglingen and Tamm.

A new regional low emission zone was established in Leonberg/Hemmingen and environs on December 2, 2013. It includes the existing low emission zone in Leonberg plus Hemmingen, Ditzingen, Gerlingen, Korntal-Münchingen and Schwieberdingen. Thus it directly adjoins the 'Ludwigsburg and environs' low emission zone and the Stuttgart low emission zone.



## 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. However, emissions from the urban and regional background are important factors as well. Consequently road traffic is a factor of major importance in the endeavour to provide clean air. The quality of air is improved by

restricting traffic in low emission zones. There is a marked reduction in emissions of diesel soot, which is especially harmful to health owing to its carcinogenic properties.

## 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. Examples are test drives and vehicle transfer operations with a short term licence plate, a red licence plate or an export licence plate.

## WHEN DOES THE BAN ON VEHICLES COME INTO FORCE?

Since January 1, 2013, vehicles are only allowed to enter low-emission zones of Baden-Württemberg if they have a green sticker. In the Schramberg low emission zone, yellow stickers have been allowed at the start in addition to green ones. Later in 2014, only green stickers will be allowed.

## 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 addition to low emission zones, some clean air policies (Stuttgart, Markgröningen, Pleidelsheim – Ingersheim – Freiberg am Neckar, Leonberg – Ditzingen, Ulm) have an additional ban on lorries with maximum permissible total weights of 3.5 tonnes and above (delivery traffic is permitted).

# Stickers

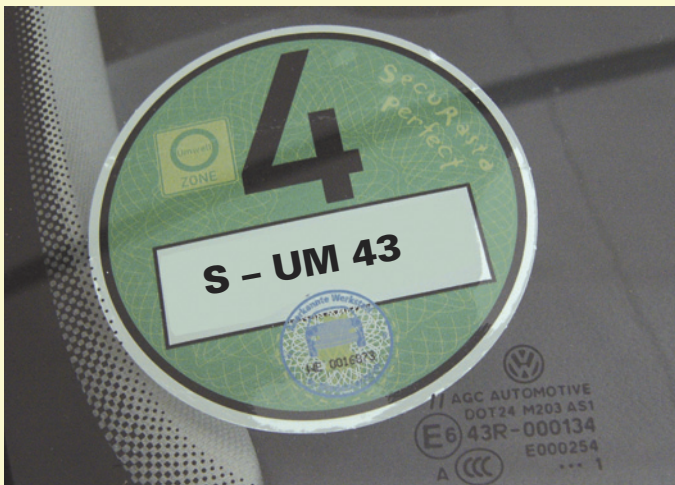
## WHY STICKERS?

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. Electric vehicles and vehicles belonging to emissions group 5/6 (V/VI) receive a green 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. In May 2014 the fine will be increased to 80 euros, but a point will no longer be registered.



## 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.



Based on the last two digits of the emissions code, the listing above will show you what kind of sticker your vehicle qualifies for.

Plaketten	Benzinmotoren		Dieselmotoren	
	Pkw	Nutzfahrzeuge	Pkw	Nutzfahrzeuge
			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
Fahrzeuge, die die Abgasnorm Euro 5 oder Euro 6 einhalten.				

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 throughout the country 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](http://www.dekra.de), [www.tuev-sued.de](http://www.tuev-sued.de) and [www.gtue.de](http://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 websites 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.

### 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 disabled persons (code aG, H or BI in passes for the severely disabled), 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 can be made for vehicles with a yellow sticker only if the vehicle was registered in the name of the actual owner before January 1, 2010 and

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

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, especially 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.
- 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.
- Trips made by passenger cars with a three-way catalytic converter and with codes 04, 09 or 11.

For a given trip purpose, individual exceptions for bans apply to all low emission zones in Baden-Württemberg. 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 these cases exemptions are not necessary.

Exemptions for motor vehicles without a sticker or with a red sticker applied only until December 31, 2012. After this date, new exemptions or extensions have not been allowed except in cases of hardship.

# Further information

## **WHERE CAN I OBTAIN AN EXEMPTION?**

Exemptions are issued by the authorities of the cities with low emission zones as well as by the administrations of the districts in which there are municipalities with such zones.

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.

## **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](http://www.mvi.baden-wuerttemberg.de)

at the websites of the regional government offices of the Federal States:  
[www.rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de](http://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](http://www.feinstaubplakette.de)

[www.feinstaub.gtue.de](http://www.feinstaub.gtue.de)

[www.partikelfilter-nachruesten.de](http://www.partikelfilter-nachruesten.de)

## **REGISTRATION FACILITY FOR VEHICLES WITHOUT RETROFITTING SYSTEM AVAILABLE YET**

[www.katundfiltersuche.de](http://www.katundfiltersuche.de)

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