

**HANNOVER BREATHES EASY**



# *Hannover* Emission Zone

Answers to the most common questions



## What is an Emission Zone?

An area from which motor vehicles with dirty exhausts are banned – especially diesel-engined cars and heavy goods vehicles. These will be excluded from the city centre in three stages. To enter the Zone, vehicles must display a permit disc ('Plakette'), so that the new regulations can be enforced.

The emission zone came into force in Hannover on 1st January 2008.

## What are the benefits?

Motor vehicle exhausts contain particulates, very fine dust that can provoke diseases as serious as asthma, lung cancer and heart and circulation disorders. The Emission Zone aims to reduce this health risk.

## How do I recognise an Emission Zone?




It's marked by road signs on its borders. The emission discs on the sign show which vehicles can enter the zone. Signs also show when you are leaving the emission zone.



## Which vehicles will be allowed into the Emission Zone?

Since 1st January 2008 anyone who wants to drive into the Emission Zone must display a permit disc ('Plakette') on the windscreen. At first all vehicles with a red, yellow or green disc will be allowed in. The disc colours relate to the emission categories below.

From 2009 only those vehicles with a yellow or green disc can enter the Emission Zone. From 2010 onwards the Emission Zone is open only to vehicles with a green disc.

disc			
vehicle	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 on which vehicles get which disc include exemptions for particular vehicles. These include mobile machinery and appliances, farming and forestry tractors, motorcycles, ambulances, doctors' vehicles on emergency calls, vehicles driven by or carrying Disabled people (classified 'aG', 'H' or 'BI' in their Disability Pass) and vehicles with special permits under § 35 of the general traffic regulations ('Straßenverkehrsordnung') such as police and fire brigade, and historic vehicles with 'H' or '07' number plates. These vehicles do not need permit discs.



## Where is the Emission Zone?

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

The exact borders are on the internet:  
[www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.de).



SAHLKAMP

LIST

OSTSTADT

SÜDSTADT

RICKLINGEN

DÖHREN

WALDHEIM

WALDHAUSEN

BULT

LSG

MITTEL

ZOO

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

A 40 € fine and a penalty point on your driving licence.

## 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 emission group by fitting a particulate filter. For petrol engines, fitting an approved catalytic converter may be possible. In special cases some vehicles may be exempted.

The 'Deutsche Umwelthilfe' organisation has set up a free 'Rußfrei-Hotline' (in German only) about retrofitting vehicles and suitable filters for diesel engines. Telephone 0800 | 78 77 37 34.

## Exemption rules – permits to drive into the Emission Zone

### General exemptions

Hannover City Council has made general exemptions for some kinds of vehicle:

- Vehicles with foreign number plates for the year 2008.

The following general exemptions apply until 31st Dec. 2009 for the following vehicles:

- Petrol-engined vehicles with an approved catalytic converter that have not been given a green permit disc
- Funfair wagons for events within the Emission Zone, for the journey to the venue and back. Proof of participation at the event must be carried and shown on demand.
- Public transport buses
- Coaches
- Vehicles that run on biodiesel or rapeseed oil. The vehicle manufacturer's or a vehicle workshop certificate that the specific vehicle can run on biodiesel or rapeseed oil must be carried and shown on demand.
- Vehicles with temporary number plates and red 'trade plates'.

An application to be exempted is not necessary. The vehicle documents, number plate or type of vehicle are sufficient proof, respectively the aforementioned proofs.

Further single exemptions can be made by Hannover City Council according to § 1 paragraph 2 of the vehicle registration regulations ('Kennzeichnungsverordnung') in cases of hardship.

### Exemptions for residents and businesses **inside** the Emission Zone

An exemption is generally only granted when

- the vehicle cannot be fitted with a particulate filter or an approved catalytic converter and
- replacing the vehicle would be too expensive.

To enable the City of Hannover to assess whether a replacement vehicle would be too expensive, applicants must supply documentary proof of their income, outgoings and capital. For recipients of ALG II unemployment benefit or basic social security payment, a copy of the certificate ('Bescheid') is sufficient.

The exemption entitles the applicant to drive anywhere in the Emission Zone.

### Exemptions for people and businesses **outside** the Emission Zone

An exemption is generally only granted when

- the journey is necessary for personal reasons or in the general public interest and
- no other vehicle or means of transport is available.

The exemption will be granted only for the necessary route and is not transferable.

Exempted journeys are e.g. to deliver essential goods and services or for special occasions (transport of exceptional loads, events). This also includes essential journeys for other (health, business, or professional) reasons.



### **Further exemptions for individuals and businesses inside and outside the Emission Zone (limited use)**

For **vehicles used for commercial purposes** that are driven no more than 2,000 km per year inside the Emission Zone.

For **private vehicles** that are driven no more than 500 km per year inside the Emission Zone.

Drivers must keep a logbook of all journeys inside the Emission Zone.

The kilometre limits will be checked. If you are granted an exemption you must present the logbook regularly for inspection at Hannover City Council offices. Exceeding the limit automatically cancels the exemption.

These exemptions apply until 31st Dec. 2009 at the latest; from 2010 there will be new regulations based on the legal situation applying then.

### **Exemptions for single journeys and brief periods**

**Short-term exemptions** can be granted for:

- Single journeys e.g. to keep appointments at short notice or for a special event,
- A brief period e.g. when a resident inside the Emission Zone wishes to set off from home in his/her motor caravan. An exemption can also be granted for a transitional period when a new vehicle has been ordered but not delivered before the Emission Zone regulations come into force.

There is a charge for granting exemptions (and also for rejecting applications):

20,- €	for single journeys, and for hardship cases (e.g. ALG II or social security recipients)
--------	---

60,- €	for long-term restricted routes
--------	---------------------------------

120,- €	for long-term permits anywhere in the Emission Zone
---------	---

**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 are available there or to download from [www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.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 the 'Bürgerämter' also issue discs. Bring the vehicle documents ('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 an Emission Zone you do not need a permit disc. Please bear in mind that other local authorities are also planning Emission Zones and you may need a permit disc for journeys to and through other towns.

## Are there 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 an Emission Zone.

Information on the whole of Germany is available from the 'Umweltbundesamt', tel. 0340 | 2103-0 or on [www.uba.de](http://www.uba.de).

## Further Information

### Landeshauptstadt Hannover

Fachbereich Umwelt und Stadtgrün

Bereich Umweltschutz

Prinzenstraße 4 | 30159 Hannover

[www.hannover.de](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kfz-zulassungsbehoerde@hannover-stadt.de)

Landeshauptstadt

**Hannover**

The Lord Mayor  
.....  
Environment and  
City Greenspace

Email [buk@hannover-stadt.de](mailto:buk@hannover-stadt.de)  
[www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.de)

Text & editing Ingrid Schulz  
Translation Mic Hale, VHS Hannover

Layout m.göke  
Printed by Druckhaus Pinkvoss  
on 100 % recycled paper

Published January 2008