

Better Air for Berlin



Berlin's Environmental Zone from 2008

What drivers need to know



The environmental zone...



Dear residents of Berlin,

High pollutant levels caused by vehicle traffic put the health of residents in Berlin's inner city at risk. Thus from 2008, vehicles with especially high emissions will no longer be allowed in the inner city. This restriction will affect not even 7% of the 1.2 million vehicles currently registered in Berlin. Yet it will help to significantly reduce harmful

pollutant levels—a small step on the way to an environmental and healthy metropolis, which will benefit all of us.

*Sincerely, Katrin Lompscher
Senator for Health, Environment
and Consumer Protection*

Environmental zone—what's that?

The environmental zone is an area in which only vehicles (passenger cars and lorries) that meet specific exhaust emission standards are allowed to drive. Vehicles with particularly high emissions are barred from entry. This also applies for residents and business in the environmental zone.

What area does the environmental zone cover?

The environmental zone covers Berlin's inner city within the urban railway ring. It is an area of approximately 88 km², which is especially densely developed. Approximately one million of Berlin's 3.4 million inhabitants live here. The southern part of the inner-city motorway situated within the urban railway ring will not be part of the environmental zone and is open to all traffic.



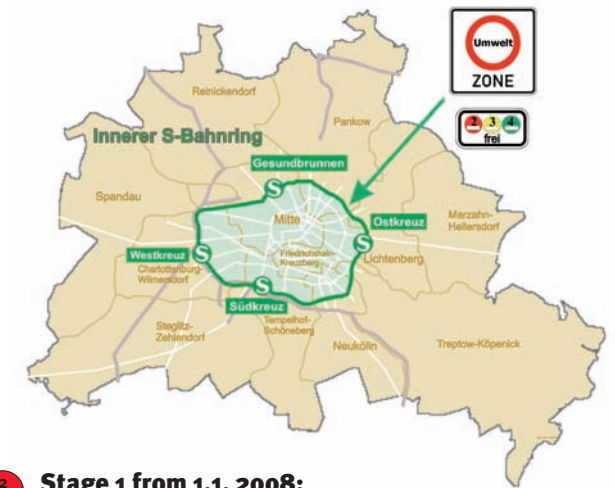
...better air for Berlin

When will the environmental zone come into force?

The environmental zone will come into force from 1 January 2008. In order to permanently clear the air in Berlin the traffic restrictions of the environmental zone will apply without a time limit. The driving bans will apply regardless of whether the current air pollution is high or low.

Who is allowed to drive in Berlin's environmental zone?

The environmental zone will be introduced in two stages, 2008 and 2010. Vehicles in the environmental zone must carry a low-emission sticker.



2 **Stage 1 from 1.1. 2008:**
Vehicles (lorries and passenger cars) must at least meet the requirements of Pollutant Class 2 of the recently adopted national vehicle marking scheme. Therefore, vehicles with red, yellow and green stickers are allowed.

4 **Stage 2 from 1.1.2010:**
Only vehicles in Pollutant Class 4—thus, only vehicles with green stickers—can drive in the zone.



Why is an environmental zone necessary?

High concentrations of fine particles (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide are a health hazard. Hence strict values for fine particle concentrations in ambient air have to be met since 1.1.2005; additional limit values for nitrogen dioxide will have to be attained by 1.1.2010.

The limit values for fine particles (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) are exceeded on many main roads in densely populated parts of Berlin's inner city. Road traffic is the key source of these pollutants in Berlin, accounting for roughly 40% of the pollution caused by fine particles and 80% by nitrogen dioxide. Traffic emissions must therefore be reduced in order to improve health protection for the people living here.

What will the environmental zone achieve?

The driving ban will affect vehicles with the highest pollutant emission. Stage 2 of the environmental zone will virtually halve the fine particle emissions from diesel exhausts.

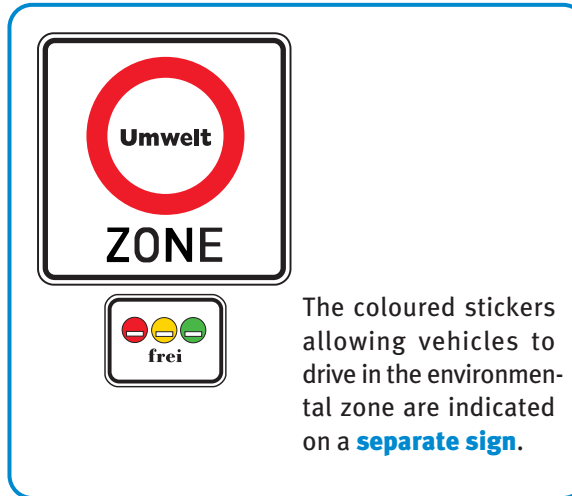
As a result of the environmental zone the number of residents affected by exceeded air quality limit values will decrease by approximately a quarter.



The road sign

How do I recognise the environmental zone?

A new road sign for the environmental zone has been created in the national road traffic Order, namely the road sign 270.1:



The coloured stickers allowing vehicles to drive in the environmental zone are indicated on a **separate sign**.

You are free to enter the environmental zone – but only with a sticker please

It is difficult to spot from outside a vehicle whether it creates a large or small amount of pollutants, and often this information is only stated in an encoded form in the vehicle documents.

To make it easier for car drivers to work out whether they are allowed to drive with their vehicle in the environmental zone, a national standard vehicle marking system has been introduced with coloured stickers for the windscreen. This will ensure that the environmental zone can be easily controlled by the traffic police.



The pollutant Classes

How are the pollutant classes defined?

The four pollutant classes are based on the European exhaust standards (Euro-Standards).

Diesel vehicles with Euro 1 through 4 will be assigned to the pollutant classes 1 through 4. Drivers can move up to the next higher pollutant group by retrofitting their vehicle with a particle filter.

There are only two ratings for petrol-driven cars (vehicles with otto engines): Pollutant Class 1 without a sticker for vehicles which do not meet Euro 1 and Pollutant Group 4 with a green sticker for all others.

	Pollutant group			
	1	2	3	4
Sticker	No Sticker			
Requirement for diesel-driven cars	Euro 1 or worse	Euro 2 or Euro 1 + particle filter	Euro 3 or Euro 2 + particle filter	Euro 4 or Euro 3 + particle filter
Requirement for petrol-driven cars	Without 3-Way catalytic converter			Euro 1 with regulated catalytic converter or better

Space for registration number

What are the rules for foreign cars?

The criteria of the environmental zone also apply to foreign vehicles. They also need a sticker. The Pollutant Class can be determined on the basis of the year of initial registration or on the basis of the European emission standard stated in the vehicle documents.



The stickers

Where can I obtain the sticker?

Issuing offices are the vehicle registration office, the exhaust emission testing centres, such as TÜV and DEKRA, and the approximately 800 authorised garages in Berlin. Tourists can also obtain the necessary stickers there. Only the vehicle registration certificate is required to purchase the sticker. The sticker can also be ordered in writing at the vehicle registration office.



Is my sticker only valid in Berlin?

The stickers are valid nationwide in any environmental zone. They can therefore also be purchased nationwide.

What does the sticker cost?

The price of the sticker is not stipulated in the marking ordinance. Each garage is free to charge what they wish.



At Berlin's registration office the sticker costs 5 euros. This covers the manufacturing and administrative costs.



The sticker only has to be purchased once for a vehicle and is then valid for an unlimited period.

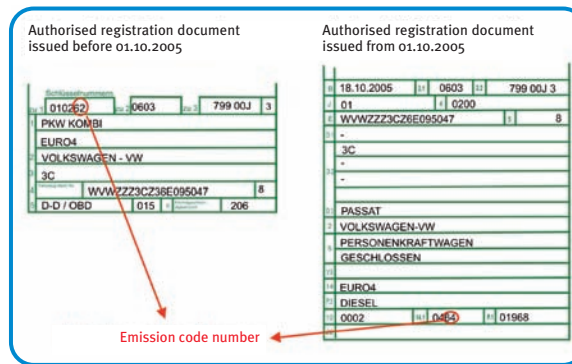


Which sticker...

Which pollutant group does my vehicle belong to?

Stickers are allocated to vehicles according to the so-called emission code number, which is entered in the vehicle registration document, and, if applicable, certification of the particle filter retrofit.

Where can I find my code number?



Allocation of code numbers to stickers

Stickers	Petrol engine		Diesel engine		
	Passenger cars	Lorries/buses (goods vehicles)	Passenger cars with filter	Passenger cars without filter	Lorries/buses (goods vehicles)
				25 to 29, 35, 41, 71	20, 21, 22, 33, 43, 53, 60, 61
			Level PM 1*: 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 25 to 29, 34, 35, 40, 41, 71, 77	30, 31, 36, 37, 42, 44 to 52, 72	34, 44, 54, 70, 71
	14, 16, 18 to 70; 71 to 75	30 to 55, 60, 61	Level PM 1*: 49 to 52; Level PM 2*: 30, 31, 36, 37, 42, 44 to 48, 67 to 70; Level PM 3*: 32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 53 to 66 and Level PM 4*	32, 33, 38, 39, 43, 53 to 70, 73 to 75	35, 45, 55, 80, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91

* PM 1 through 4 correspond to the particle reduction levels 1 through 4



...for which vehicle?

Classification of retrofitted goods vehicles:

The federal government will publish the allocation of code numbers to higher pollutant groups for retrofitted goods vehicles in summer 2007. Then these vehicles will also receive a better sticker.

No sticker despite a three way catalytic converter?

According to the marking ordinance Petrol-driven cars with the code numbers 01, 02 and 77 will not be awarded a sticker at present. As the pollutant emissions of these vehicles are no worse than in the case of petrol-driven cars with Euro 1, which have already been awarded a green sticker, the ordinance will be amended by autumn 2007. Then these vehicles will also be awarded a green sticker.

Will drivers receive tax discount for retrofitting their vehicles with particle filters?

Diesel passenger cars retrofitted with particle filters will be eligible for tax discount of € 330.00 between January 2007 and December 2009. This also applies to vehicles which entered into service before 31.12.2006. Cars which have not been retrofitted will be subject to a surtax from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2011. This amounts to € 1.20 per 100 cc cylinder capacity.



Exemptions

Are there any exemptions from the traffic bans in the environment zone?

A few general exemptions have already been stipulated by the federal government in the marking ordinance. These include:

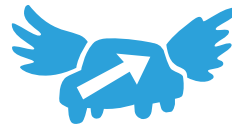
- mobile machinery and equipment
- mopeds and motorcycles
- on-duty ambulances and doctor's cars
- vehicles for the handicapped marked *aG, H or BI*
- vehicles with special rights according to sec. 35 of the German Road Traffic Order (StVO), e.g. refuse disposal vehicles or road-cleaning vehicles

Other vehicles which are actually affected by the driving ban may be awarded a special licence on request in particular cases of hardship.

This special licence will be granted by the road traffic authorities in the city districts. To ensure that the applications in the districts are assessed uniformly, a guideline is currently being worked out by the Senate.

It is likely that applications may be filed from autumn 2007. The exact procedure will be announced in the press and in the internet.

No applications may be submitted before this date!



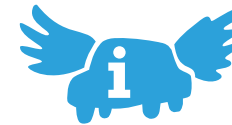
Keeping the air clean in Berlin

Environmental zone – is that it?

The environmental zone is the centrepiece of the Clean Air and Action Plan in Berlin, but this alone is not enough to meet the limit values for fine particles and nitrogen dioxide.

Therefore, additional measures have been and will be taken across the whole of Berlin, e.g.:

- promoting non-motorised traffic and public transport
- modernising the bus fleet of the Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (diesel particle filters, natural gas buses)
- high environmental standards when purchasing municipal vehicles
- promoting clean natural gas vehicles
- traffic-managing and traffic-controlling measures
- 30 km speed limit on selected main roads
- a lorry transit ban on Silbersteinstraße
- measures to prevent dust emissions from building building sites
- high environmental standards for new solid fuel heating systems (e.g. pellet heating boilers)
- political commitment to stricter emission standards Europe-wide



Further information

Where can I obtain information on this subject?

We can answer your questions about the environmental zone at umweltzone@senguv.verwalt-berlin.de

Current information on maintaining clean air is published in the internet at:

www.berlin.de/sen/umwelt/luftqualitaet/

Here you can find:

- current measured values of the air quality
- the Clean Air and Action Plan as a download
- information on air quality over the last few years
- the air pollution index of all main roads in the environment atlas
- current information on the environmental zone

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