

Stickers for foreign-registered vehicles

Driving bans in German cities also apply to foreign-registered vehicles. Access to restricted areas will be subject to carrying a sticker specifying the Euro emission classification. Driving a foreign-registered vehicle in a German low emission zone without carrying a sticker will be subject to a €40 fine.

Further information is provided below.

Emission classification

A vehicle's classification in terms of emission is based on the EC air pollution directive, which specifies four emission levels. To obtain a sticker, evidence must be provided that the vehicle complies with the EU emission standards as laid down in Directives 70/220/EEC and 88/77/EEC as amended. For vehicles registered in Germany, the emission code is entered in the vehicle registration documents.

In the case of foreign-registered vehicles whose documentation does not provide emission data, other relevant evidence must be submitted (e.g. manufacturer's certificate). If this is not possible, emission classification for foreign-registered vehicles is based on the year of first registration. The table below provides an overview of the relevant air pollution directives and first registration periods.

For toll-paying HGVs, reference should be made to the relevant provisions of the German HGV Toll Act (Lkw-Maut-Verordnung).

For vehicles equipped with a retrofit DPF, evidence must be provided that the vehicle meets a certain PM reduction level (PM) or a certain PM reduction category (PMK) (for reference see Schedule XXVI StVZO (German Road Traffic Licensing Regulation) for passenger cars and Schedule XIV or XXVII StVZO for HGVs and similar).

Emission classification based on air pollution directives and/or first registration

1. Diesel vehicles

Emission level	Reference directive / PM limits	Date of first registration	Diesel vehicles with retrofit DPF
Emission level 2	Red sticker		
Euro 2 passenger cars	70/220/EEC, as amended by Directive 94/12/EC or 96/44/EC and category M limits (vehicles up to 2.5t) or 70/220/EEC, as amended by Directive 96/69/EC or 98/77/EC	First registration between 1 Jan 1997 and 31 Dec 2000	First registration on/after 1 Jan 1993 and retrofit DPF with evidence of PM01 or PM0 reduction level
Euro II HGVs	88/77/EEC, as amended by Directive 91/542/EEC or 96/1/EC and limits line B	First registration between 1 Oct 1996 and 30 Sep 2001	First registration on/after 1 Jan 1993 and retrofit DPF with evidence of PMK01 or PMK0 reduction category

Emission level 3	Yellow sticker		
Euro 3 passenger cars	70/220/EEC, as amended by Directive 98/69/EC, 1999/102/EC, 2001/1/EC, 2001/100/EC, 2002/80/EC or 2003/76/EC and limits A (2000)	First registration between 1 Jan 2001 and 31 Dec 2005	First registration on/after 1 Oct 1996 and retrofit DPF with evidence of PM0 reduction level
Euro III HGVs	88/77/EEC, as amended by Directive 1999/96/EC or 2001/27/EC and limits A (2000)	First registration between 1 Oct 2001 and 30 Sep 2006	First registration on/after 1 Oct 1996 and retrofit DPF with evidence of PMK0 or PMK1 reduction category
Emission level 4	Green sticker		
Euro 4 passenger cars and future emission levels	70/220/EEC, as amended by Directive 98/69/EC, 1999/102/EC, 2001/1/EC, 2001/100/EC, 2002/80/EC or 2003/76/EC and limits B (2005)	First registration on/after 1 Jan 2006	
Euro IV, V and EEV HGVs and future emission levels	88/77/EEC, as amended by Directive 1999/96/EC or 2001/27/EC and limits B1 (2005), B2 (2008) or C (EEV) or 2005/55/EC	First registration on/after 1 Oct 2006	First registration on/after 1 Oct 2000 and retrofit DPF with evidence of PMK1, PMK2, PMK3 or PMK4 reduction category

Note: Diesel vehicles not complying with any of the above directives or registered in any other period will be classified as emission level 1 and will not qualify for a sticker.

2. Petrol vehicles

Emission level	Reference directive / PM limits	Date of first registration
Emission level 4	Green sticker	
Passenger cars from Euro 1 and future emission levels	70/220/EEC, as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC (without transitional provisions, Annex 1 no. 8.1 or 8.3), 93/59/EEC, 94/12/EC, 96/69/EC, 98/77/EC, 98/69/EC, 1999/102/EC, 2001/1/EC, 2001/100/EC, 2002/80/EC or 2003/76/EC Schedule XXIII StVZO or 52 nd regulation on exemptions from StVZO	Initial registration on/after 1 Jan 1993
Euro I HGVs and future emission levels	88/77EEC, as amended by Directive 1999/96/EC or 2001/27/EC and limits B1 (2005), B2 (2008) or C (EEV) or 2005/55/EC	

Note: Petrol vehicles not complying with any of the above directives or registered in any other period will be classified as emission level 1 and will not qualify for a sticker.

3. Vehicles without internal combustion engine

Vehicles not equipped with an internal combustion engine (e.g. electric motor, fuel cell) will be classified as emission level 4.

Which vehicles are affected by driving bans?

Driving bans in inner cities currently affect primarily emission level 1 vehicles which do not qualify for a sticker. But in some cities (e.g. Hanover) also emission level 2 vehicles (red sticker) are already affected.

From 01.01.2010 on, the driving bans will be tightened in a lot of cities. Generally, level 1 and level 2 vehicles (no or red sticker) will be affected then. But in some cities (e.g. Hanover, Berlin) from this date on also level 3 vehicles (yellow sticker) will be banned; i.e. only level 4 vehicles (green sticker) will be allowed to drive in the restricted areas.

Latest information on this issue is available, also for non-members of ADAC, on the Internet at www.adac.de/plaketten.

Where can the stickers be obtained?

The stickers are only available from German vehicle registration authorities and emission test organisations approved according to § 47a (2) StVZO, i.e. at technical inspection agencies (e.g. Dekra, GTÜ, KÜS, TÜV) and more than 30,000 workshops throughout Germany. Not qualifying as registered emission test organisations, ADAC local offices cannot sell stickers.

The technical inspection agencies offer owners of foreign-registered vehicle the possibility to purchase the stickers at their foreign agencies or to order them via the internet.

Dekra: www.dekra.de/umweltzone

GTÜ: www.gtue.de/apps2/feinstaub/international/index.php

TÜV-Nord: www.tuev-nord.de/de/Umweltplakette_2888.htm

TÜV-Süd: www.tuev-sued.de/auto_fahrzeuge/feinstaub-plakette/feinstaubplakette_ausland

Also cities like Berlin or Cologne offer such Online-Services.

Berlin: www.berlin.de/sen/umwelt/luftqualitaet/de/luftreinhalteplan/doku_umweltzone.shtml

Köln: <http://www.stadt-koeln.de/3/umwelt/umweltzone/plaketten-und-zuordnung-der-fahrzeuge/>

Austria: The Austrian Automobile Club ÖAMTC offers the sticker at its local offices.
http://www.oeamtc.at/index.php?type=article&id=1126140&menu_active=44

Switzerland: Swiss vehicle owners can order the sticker at the TCS local offices.
www.tcs.ch/main/de/home/dienstleistungen/news/europa/umweltzone.html.

Slovenia: The Slovenian Automobile Club AMZS offers the sticker at its local offices.

When taking a trip at short notice, drivers of foreign-registered vehicles should stop at the nearest inspection agency (TÜV, DEKRA etc.) to buy a sticker as soon as they have crossed the German border.

Unrestricted access for historic vehicles

Historic vehicles registered in Germany and carrying an "H" or a red "07" historic car licence plate are exempt from the emissions labelling regulation and do not require a sticker to access low-emission zones.

This exemption applies also to foreign-registered historic cars. However, the vehicles should meet equivalent standards as the vehicles qualifying for a German "H" or red "07" licence plate. As a prerequisite, the vehicles must be at least 30 years old. And they have to be well-preserved. Inappropriate conversions will not be accepted – unless coeval modifications.

The international FIVA Identity Card (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens) is further evidence for a foreign-registered car qualifying as a historic vehicle. The FIVA Identity Card can be obtained from the national FIVA clubs. For further information, please visit www.fiva.org.

When parking their historic vehicles in a low-emission zone, the owners should visibly display on the inside of the windscreen a copy of the national vehicle registration certificate indicating the vehicle's age, and, if applicable, the FIVA Identity Card.