

 A GUIDE TO LEZ & CAZ

Where they are and what you need to know



The UK's clean air and low emission zones – where they are and what you need to know

It's been 25 years since Ken Livingstone, the then Mayor of London, launched the capital's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) – a ground-breaking move that set the ball rolling for an array of similar initiatives designed to improve the UK's air quality.

The blue touch paper was lit when the Government announced plans for a nationwide rollout of Clean Air Zones (CAZs) in 2015, and then followed this up in 2017 by tasking local authorities with devising clean air zone proposals.

Schemes were delayed by the Covid-19 crisis, but the rollout has since gathered pace.

The following A to Z guide outlines where you will find LEZs and CAZs, and explains what the rules mean for your fleet.

Action for customers:

Set up your free business accounts to check CAZ compliance for multiple vehicles at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and ensure you are appropriately managing your vehicles in your area.

Action for drivers:

Ensure you are aware of the LEZ and CAZs and speak to your employer if you are driving regularly in these areas.





Locations

ABERDEEN

Aberdeen introduced a Low Emissions Zone in the city centre in May 2022.

There is currently a grace period for enforcement, with Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) due to be imposed from May 2024. The initial penalty charge for all non-compliant vehicles is set at £60, reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days.

Non-compliant vehicles are specified as pre-Euro 6 buses, coaches and HGVs, pre-Euro 6 diesel cars and vans and pre-Euro 4 petrol cars and vans.

More information, including a map of the zone, can be found on the council [website](#).

BATH

Bath launched its class C CAZ, covering the city centre, in March 2021.

It doesn't yet affect private cars and motorbikes, though business-use vehicles have to pay a fee if they don't meet the emissions standard (Euro 6 or better for diesel vehicles and Euro 4 or better petrol vehicles).

Vans, taxis and minibuses have to pay £9 a day, while non-compliant trucks and lorries, and coaches and buses face a daily charge of £100.

More information can be found on Bath and North East Somerset's [website](#).

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's CAZ was introduced in 2021 and covers all roads within the Middleway Ring Road (but not the ring road itself). It operates 24 hours a day, every day.

It's a class D CAZ, which means it applies to all non-compliant vehicle types. The emissions standard is Euro 6 or better for diesel vehicles and Euro 4 or better for petrol vehicles.

Non-compliant cars, vans and taxis are charged £8, non-compliant buses and lorries are charged £50.

For more information and to find out more about how you can pay, visit [brumbreathes](https://www.brumbreathes.com).

BRADFORD

Bradford's class C+ CAZ, launched in September 2022, covers the area inside, and including, its outer ring road. It extends out along the Aire valley corridor (Manningham Lane/Bradford Road and Canal Road area) to include Shipley and Saltaire.

The CAZ only applies to taxis and private hire cars, HGVs, vans and other commercial vehicles. Non-compliant taxis pay £7 to enter the zone, vans and minibuses pay £9, with HGVs and buses paying £50.

More information, including the emissions standard, can be found at [breathe better BRADFORD](https://www.breathebetterbradford.com).

BRISTOL

Bristol's class D CAZ came into force at the end of November 2022.

Charges do not apply to Euro 6 or better diesel vehicles and to Euro 4 or better petrol vehicles.

Cars, taxis and vans that don't meet the required standard are charged £9 a day, while trucks, buses and coaches are charged £100.

More information on Bristol's CAZ, including a map of the zone, can be found at [Clean Air for Bristol](https://www.cleanairforbristol.co.uk).

DUNDEE

Dundee City Council's LEZ was introduced in May 2022 but, as with Aberdeen, it will not be enforced until May 2024.

Non-compliant vehicles are pre-Euro 6 buses, coaches and HGVs, pre-Euro 6 diesel cars and vans and pre-Euro 4 petrol cars and vans. The initial penalty charge for all non-compliant vehicles is set at £60, reduced by 50% if it is paid within 14 days.

More information, including a map of the zone, can be found on the council [website](https://www.dundee.gov.uk).



EDINBURGH

As with Aberdeen and Dundee, Edinburgh's LEZ was introduced in May 2022, but it will not be enforced until May 2024. The same rules apply as the two aforementioned cities.

Non-compliant vehicles are pre-Euro 6 buses, coaches and HGVs, pre-Euro 6 diesel cars and vans and pre-Euro 4 petrol cars and vans. The initial penalty charge for all non-compliant vehicles is set at £60, reduced by 50% if it is paid within 14 days.

More information, including a map of the zone, can be found on the council [website](#).



GLASGOW

Glasgow became the first city in Scotland to have a low emission zone. Introduced in December 2018 it initially only applied to buses, but from June 2023 all vehicles entering the city centre zone need to meet the specified emissions standard or face a penalty charge.

As with Scotland's other LEZs, non-compliant vehicles are pre-Euro 6 buses, coaches and HGVs, pre-Euro 6 diesel cars and vans and pre-Euro 4 petrol cars and vans. The initial penalty charge for all non-compliant vehicles is set at £60, reduced by 50% if it is paid within 14 days.

The penalty charge doubles with each subsequent breach, rising to a maximum of £480 for cars and light goods vehicles and £960 for buses and HGVs.

More information, including a map of the zone, can be found on the council [website](#).

LONDON

London has led by example in cutting emissions. Between 2016 and 2020, toxic NO₂ reductions occurred at a rate that was five times greater than the national average.

The city's LEZ covers most of greater London, but does not apply to cars, only to HGVs, buses and coaches.

There are three LEZ charges – £100 or £300 (for those that do not meet Euro 4) for larger vehicles over 3.5 tonnes and £100 for smaller ones (over 1.205 tonnes unladen weight up to 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight). You can find out about the LEZ more [here](#).

The ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ), introduced in 2019, has been restricted to the area within the North and South Circular roads, but expands to cover all London boroughs as of August 29, 2023.

Cars, vans and motorcycles that do not meet the ULEZ requirements (for motorcycles, pre-Euro 3 and for petrol and diesel cars and vans, pre-Euro 4 and pre-Euro 6 respectively) are charged £12.50 per day. Heavier vehicles, including lorries over 3.5 tonnes, and buses and coaches over five tonnes, pay the LEZ charge.

Both schemes operate 24 hours a day, every day (with the exception of Christmas Day for the ULEZ).

Businesses with six or more vehicles can apply for the TfL (Transport for London) automated payment system to pay Congestion Charge, Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Low Emission Zone (LEZ) charges. See [here](#) for more information.

You can find out if your vehicles meet the minimum standards to drive in London [here](#).





MANCHESTER

Transport for Greater Manchester's CAZ had been due to launch in May 2022, but it was put on hold during the pandemic.

A new investment-led plan was formulated that does not include a charging Clean Air Zone. In January 2023, the Government asked for additional evidence to support Greater Manchester's case for this.

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD

Newcastle and Gateshead launched a CAZ in October 2022, covering the city centre and routes over the River Tyne, including the Swing, High Level and Redheugh bridges.

Charges for non-compliant taxis, buses, coaches and HGVs were introduced from January 2023. Charges for vans and light goods vehicles began in July 2023. Non-compliant vehicles are pre-Euro 6 buses, coaches and HGVs, pre-Euro 6 diesel vans and pre-Euro 4 petrol vans.

Full details can be found at [Breath Clean Air](#).

OXFORD

Oxford's Zero Emission Zone covers some or all of nine streets in the city centre. All fossil-fuelled vehicles have to pay between £2 to £10 to enter the zone.

The charges – which apply from 7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week – by vehicle band and emissions can be found [here](#).

You can check your vehicle and pay [here](#).

PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth's CAZ is class B, which excludes private cars, motorcycles and vans from any charges. It went live in November 2021 and covers an area to the south-west of the city. A map of the zone can be found [here](#).

Drivers of non-compliant taxis and private hire vehicles must pay £10 per day. Non-compliant HGVs, buses and coaches incur a charge of £50 per day.

Non-compliant vehicles are specified as pre-Euro 6 diesel HGVs, buses and coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles, and pre-Euro 4 petrol HGVs, buses and coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles.

For more information, visit [Cleaner Air Portsmouth](#).

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield introduced a class C CAZ in February 2023, covering the inner ring road and city centre.

Non-compliant vehicles are HGVs, vans, minibuses, buses, coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles that do not meet Euro 6 Diesel or Euro 4 Petrol standards.

Larger vehicles, such as buses, coaches and HGVs, are charged £50 a day, smaller vehicles, such as taxis and vans are charged £10 a day. More information can be found on the council [website](#).

YORK

York City Council implemented a CAZ for buses only in January 2020, covering an area within York's inner ring road. It's been fully operational since January 2021.

All buses that serve the city centre CAZ five or more times a day must either be electric or meet the diesel Euro 6 standard.

More information can be found [here](#).