

29.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 29.1 The DfT guidance suggests that authorities may wish to consider how far the vehicle licensing policy can and should support local environmental policies that the Licensing Authority may have. They may also decide to set vehicle emissions standards by promoting cleaner fuels. Local licensing authorities may also wish to note that a review carried out by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection in 2005 found taxis were more likely than other vehicles to fail emissions tests.
- 29.2 Cambridge City Council considers that every effort should be made to improve the efficiency of vehicles licensed to operate in the city by reducing the emissions of pollutants such as Nitrous Oxides, Particulate Matter and Carbon Dioxide.
- 29.3 The European Union has introduced stricter limits on pollutant emissions from light road vehicles, particularly for emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulates.
- 29.4 In order to limit pollution caused by road vehicles, this Regulation introduces common requirements for emissions from motor vehicles and their specific replacement parts (Euro 5 and Euro 6 standards).

NOx and PM emission standards for diesel cars

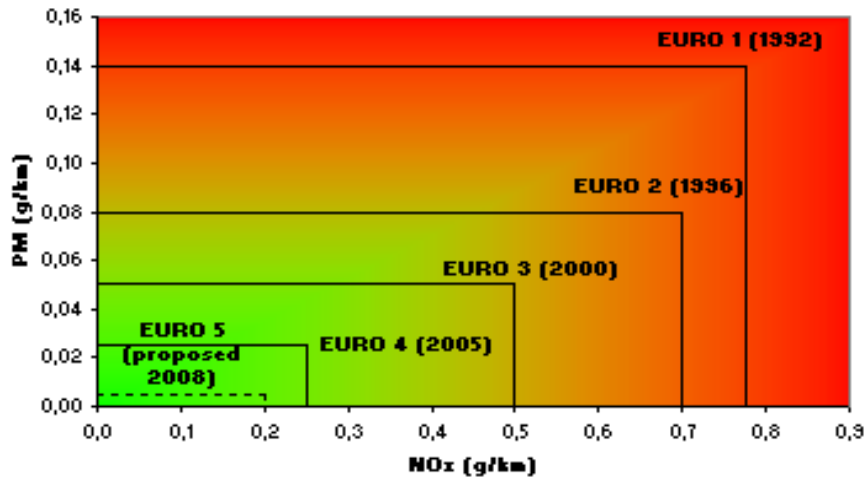


Figure 1 – Chart showing the implementation dates of successive Euro Standards and the Nox and PM levels for each of those standards

EURO STANDARD	DATE	NOX (G/km)	PM (G/ km)
Euro 1	July 1992		0.14
Euro 2	January 1996		0.08
Euro 3	January 2000	0.50	0.05
Euro 4	January 2005	0.25	0.02
Euro 5	September 2009	0.18	0.00
Euro 6	September 2014	0.08	0.00

Table 1 – Table showing the implementation dates of successive Euro Standards and the Nox and PM levels for each of those standards.

- 29.5 Cambridge City declared an Air Quality Management Area in 2004 because of predicted levels of nitrogen dioxide. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is an area identified by Local Authorities where the statutory UK air quality objectives are being, or are expected to be breached up to the end of 2005, AQMAs are areas where levels of air pollution are higher than they should be (as defined by central government).
- 29.6 Levels of nitrogen dioxide in central Cambridge remain above the National Objectives; an Air Quality Action Plan was first adopted in 2005 and a more comprehensive version adopted in 2010. In 2015 the City Council set a policy direction for pursuing a low emission strategy for Buses and Taxis within Cambridge over a period of 10 years.
- 29.7 The 2015-25 Air Quality Action Plan includes a strategy to reduce polluting emissions to improve poor air quality in Cambridge City and to develop taxi licensing policies to transform the vehicle fleet into a low emission fleet which will lead to a significant reduction in emissions and a significant improvement in air quality, whilst maintaining sufficient levels of access and capacity for travel in the City.
- 29.8 The following potential incentives and regulatory policies, which are designed to encourage and reward the uptake of Ultra- low emission and electric vehicles within the taxi fleet, were consulted upon and agreed by Members on 19th March 2018:
- 29.9 However, during in 2020 – 2022 the country suffered a pandemic and with BREXIT and crisis in Ukraine this has led to the lack of availability of electric and ultra-low vehicles.
- 29.10 As a temporary solution, standard hybrids with emission levels of less than

120g/km CO2 will be accepted.

Item	Option	Rationale	Timeframe/ Implementation
1	Licence Fee Exemption for Zero emission, Vehicles	<p>Full Licence Fee Exemption is available for Zero Emission Vehicles ONLY.</p> <p>The exemption could potentially be for up to 5 years.</p> <p>This is dependent on funding availability.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2018
2	Licence Fee Discount for Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (not standard hybrids)	<p>50% Licence Fee discount is available for Ultra-Low emission vehicles.</p> <p>The exemption could potentially be for up to 5 years.</p> <p>This is dependent on funding availability.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2018
3	Extended Age Limit for Zero Emission Vehicles	<p>Zero Emission Vehicles can have an age limit of up to 15 years.</p> <p>This is subject to obtaining a Certificate of Compliance every 6 months.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2018
4	Extended Age Limit for Ultra-Low Vehicles (not standard hybrids)	<p>Ultra-Low emission vehicles can have an age limit of up to 12 years.</p> <p>This is subject to obtaining Certificate of Compliance every 6 months.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2018
5	A set date for all new Licensed Saloon Vehicles to be Zero or Ultra-Low Emission	<p>This allows proprietors/ potential proprietors to focus on planning to move to Zero or Ultra Low emission vehicles by a set date.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2020
5a	A set date for new Saloon Vehicles standard hybrids with	<p>This is a temporary inclusion whilst there is a lack of availability of electric and ultra-low vehicles.</p> <p>In September 2023, Members agreed;</p> <p>i) a new vehicle licence will not be granted in</p>	With effect from June 2022 to June 2024 when it will be reviewed

	emission levels of less than 120g/km of CO2	<p>respect of a vehicle unless it meets the Euro 5 standard or higher.</p> <p>ii) a vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle is less than 11 years old.</p>	
6	A set date for all Licensed Saloon Vehicles to be Zero or Ultra-Low Emission (Battery electric vehicles and plug in hybrids only)	This allows proprietors/ potential proprietors to focus on planning to move to Zero or Ultra Low emission vehicles by a set date and allows adequate business planning.	By December 2028
7	To reduce the total % of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles within the Hackney Carriage Fleet to 50%	<p>The % of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) to be reduced to 50% within the fleet.</p> <p>Proprietors will be offered the chance to 'give up' their Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle on the condition it is replaced with a Zero emission saloon vehicle.</p> <p>This will reduce the number of wheelchair accessible taxis from 213 to 163.</p>	With effect from 1 April 2018
8	A set date for all Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles to be Ultra-Low or Zero Emission as and when the market allows	Further to option 7 (above), currently the market does not provide Ultra-Low or Zero Emission Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.	By December 2028. Subject to review in 2026
9	To restrict City Centre Access to Ultra-Low and Zero Emission Licensed Vehicles only	<p>This is an important factor in ensuring compliance with the Ultra-Low and Zero Emission criteria.</p> <p>The Greater Cambridge Partnership project considers traffic restrictions on key access routes. This policy is outside the Licensing powers and would only be deliverable with the co-operation of the County Council. However, considering changes that have come into effect regarding access management of the City Centre</p>	By December 2028

		to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) there is the potential that this could be delivered.	
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29.11 Taxi and Private Hire Handbook, provides further information in regards to Ultra-low and Zero emission vehicles.

29.12 To support the Councils Air Quality Action Plan minimum age limits and Euro Standards will be maintained and new policy incentives to encourage the uptake of zero and ultra-low emission vehicles will be implemented over a ten year period:

- iii) a new vehicle licence will not be granted in respect of a vehicle unless it meets the Euro 5 standard or higher.
- iv) a vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle is less than 11 years old.
- v) from 1 April 2020 all new licenced saloon vehicles will need to be zero or ultra-low emission vehicles.
- vi) from June 2022 to June 2024 all new Saloon Vehicles to be either Zero or Ultra-Low Emission (plug- in) or standard hybrids with emission levels of less than 120g/km of CO₂.
- vii) by 31 December 2028 all licensed saloon vehicles will be zero or ultra-low emission vehicles.
- viii) by 31 December 2028 all wheelchair accessible vehicles will be zero or ultra-low emission as and when the market allows (this is subject to review in 2026).
- ix) by 31 December 2028, the City Centre will restrict access to zero and ultra-low emission licensed vehicles only.

- 29.13 To further support the uptake of Ultra- Low and Zero Emission vehicles, on 30 September 2019, Members agreed no maximum age limit for newly licensed Ultra- Low and Zero Emission vehicles.
- 29.14 With the previous 9-year age limit for petrol and diesel vehicles, this will mean that by 2017/18 all the internal combustion fleet licensed will be to Euro 5 or 6. The extended age allowance for low emission vehicles reflects their low pollution and supports improvements to air quality in Cambridge.
- 29.15 The term `new` means any vehicle that is being licensed for the first time with Cambridge City Council (i.e. a complete new license) or where a license is issued on a particular vehicle and then surrendered and subsequently an application to license the same vehicle is made.
- 28.16 Encouraging better maintenance of vehicles could reduce emissions from licensed vehicles further, it is intended that this aspect be tackled through education and promotion.
- 28.17 The Authority recognizes that low emission vehicles can have a positive impact on the environment and any application receives for other low and ultra-low emission vehicles will be considered on its own merits.