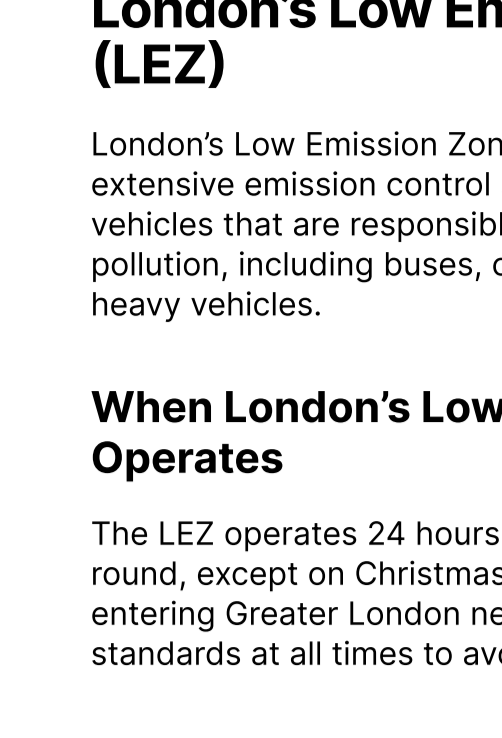


The Urban Regulations Fleets Need to Be Aware Of

Fleet operators working in urban environments face a complex range of regulations designed to reduce emissions, improve road safety, and minimise environmental impacts. From emission zones to safety standards, ensuring compliance is essential for keeping operations smooth and avoiding penalties.



ZONE

London's Low Emission Zone (LEZ)

London's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) is one of the most extensive emission control schemes in the world. It targets vehicles that are responsible for the highest levels of air pollution, including buses, coaches, lorries, and specialist heavy vehicles.

When London's Low Emission Zone Operates

The LEZ operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round, except on Christmas Day (December 25). Vehicles entering Greater London need to meet specific emissions standards at all times to avoid charges.

Minimum Vehicle Standards and Charges

- Petrol vehicles must meet Euro 4 standards.
- Diesel vehicles must meet Euro 6 standards for NOx and particulate matter.

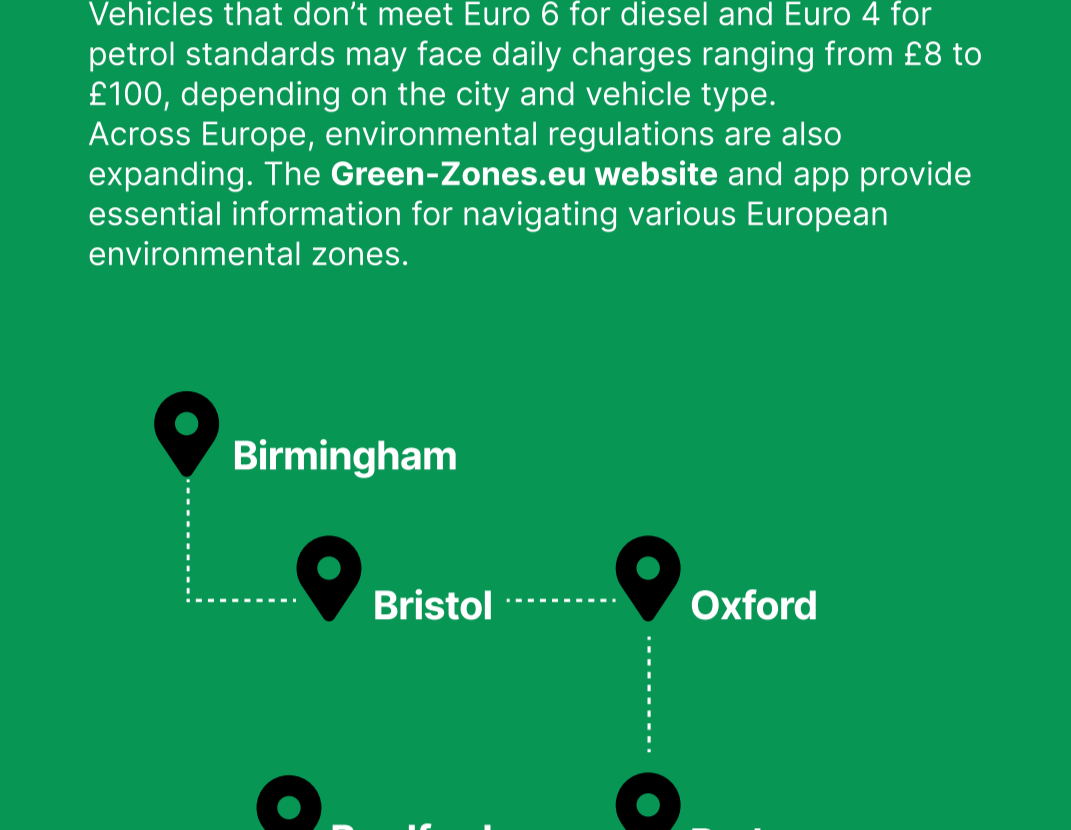
Vehicles that do not meet these standards will face a daily charge of £12.50 for entering London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). The LEZ imposes even stricter standards on heavier vehicles, such as lorries, coaches, and buses, with daily fees applicable to vehicles that fail to meet Euro 6 standards.

Exemptions and Discounts for ULEZ

Some vehicles qualify for exemptions or discounts from ULEZ charges:

- Historic vehicles (registered before January 1, 1973) are exempt.
- Blue Badge holders and specific other categories of vehicles may also qualify for exemptions.

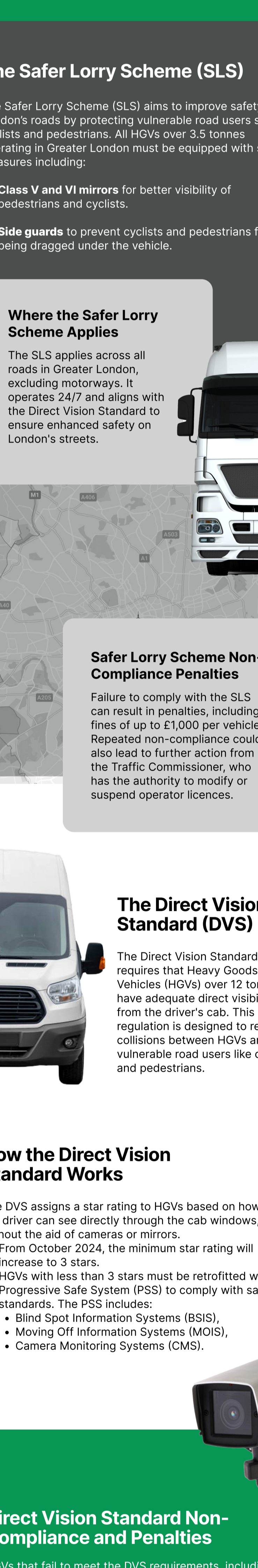
Operators should use [TfL's vehicle checker tool](#) to determine whether their fleet vehicles meet the emissions standards or qualify for discounts.



Cities Expanding Clean Air Zones (CAZ) and Introducing Low Emission Zones (LEZ)

In addition to London, many UK cities have introduced or are expanding Clean Air Zones (CAZ) and Low Emission Zones (LEZ) to tackle pollution.

Vehicles that don't meet Euro 6 for diesel and Euro 4 for petrol standards may face daily charges ranging from £8 to £100, depending on the city and vehicle type. Across Europe, environmental regulations are also expanding. The [Green-Zones.eu website](#) and app provide essential information for navigating various European environmental zones.



The Safer Lorry Scheme (SLS)

The Safer Lorry Scheme (SLS) aims to improve safety on London's roads by protecting vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians. All HGVs over 3.5 tonnes operating in Greater London must be equipped with safety measures including:

- **Class V and VI mirrors** for better visibility of pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Side guards** to prevent cyclists and pedestrians from being dragged under the vehicle.

Where the Safer Lorry Scheme Applies

The SLS applies across all roads in Greater London, excluding motorways. It operates 24/7 and works with the Direct Vision Standard to ensure enhanced safety on London's streets.

Safer Lorry Scheme Non-Compliance Penalties

Failure to comply with the SLS can result in penalties, including fines of up to £1,000 per vehicle. Repeated non-compliance could also lead to further action from the Traffic Commissioner, who has the authority to modify or suspend operator licences.



The Direct Vision Standard (DVS)

The Direct Vision Standard (DVS) requires that Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) over 12 tonnes have adequate direct visibility from the driver's cab. This safety regulation is designed to reduce collisions between HGVs and vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians.

How the Direct Vision Standard Works

The DVS assigns a star rating to HGVs based on how much the driver can see directly through the cab windows, without the aid of cameras or mirrors.

- From October 2024, the minimum star rating will increase to 3 stars.
- HGVs with less than 3 stars must be retrofitted with the Progressive Safe System (PSS) to comply with safety standards. The PSS includes:
 - Blind Spot Information Systems (BSIS),
 - Moving Off Information Systems (MOIS),
 - Camera Monitoring Systems (CMS).



Direct Vision Standard Non-Compliance and Penalties

HGVs that fail to meet the DVS requirements, including vehicles rated below 3 stars that are not retrofitted with the PSS, will face fines of £550 per day. These fines apply to each non-compliant vehicle entering London without a valid DVS permit.

Punishment

How the Direct Vision Standard Applies to Non-UK and Left-Hand Drive Vehicles

Non-UK and left-hand drive vehicles are also required to comply with the DVS when operating in London. These vehicles must meet the same 3-star minimum rating or be retrofitted with the PSS to avoid penalties.

Non-UK and Left-Hand Drive Vehicles

Vehicles outside the UK and left-hand drive vehicles are also subject to these standards. Failure to comply with the DVS results in fines, with penalties of up to £550 for vehicles entering London without a valid permit.

The enforcement of this standard is part of TfL's Vision Zero plan to prevent all deaths and serious injuries on London's transport network by 2041.

Noise Pollution and How to Reduce It

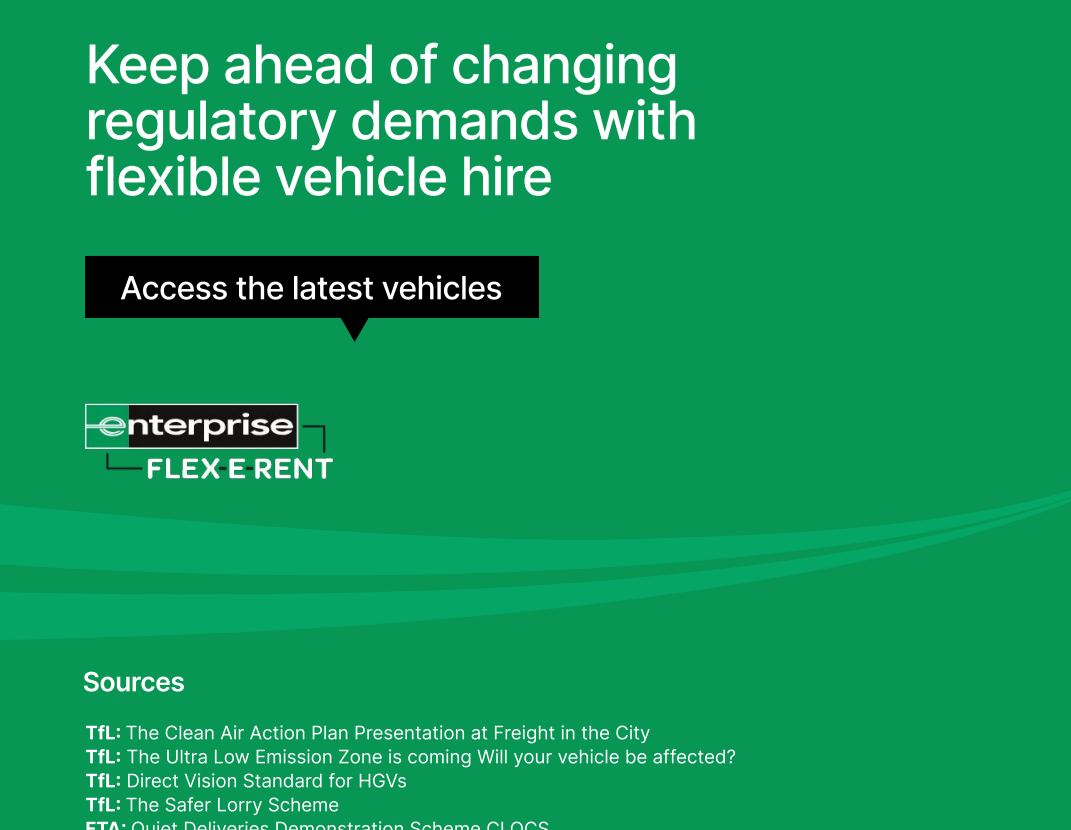
Urban areas, particularly during late-night and early-morning operations, are subject to stringent noise pollution regulations. Fleets must minimise noise when operating in city centres, especially in residential areas.

To reduce noise pollution, operators can adopt the following technologies:

Reducing Noise

- White noise reversing alarms,
- Soft-close doors,
- Low-noise refrigeration units,
- Rubber wheels and quiet roll cages.

These help ensure fleets comply with local noise restrictions and reduce the risk of complaints from residents.



Quiet Delivery Schemes

Many urban areas have implemented Quiet Delivery Schemes to allow late-night deliveries without disturbing residents.

Operators can meet the requirements of these schemes by utilising noise-minimising technologies such as low-noise engines and soft-close doors.

This helps businesses reduce delivery times while adhering to local noise restrictions.

CLOCS

The Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) scheme is a national initiative aimed at improving safety in construction logistics. It focuses on reducing the risks posed by construction vehicles to vulnerable road users.

Key elements of the CLOCS scheme include:

- Improving visibility for drivers,
- Ensuring vehicles are equipped with appropriate safety technology,
- Providing drivers with the necessary safety training.

Many local authorities require fleets to comply with CLOCS guidelines, especially on construction projects, to promote safer urban logistics.

Keep ahead of changing regulatory demands with flexible vehicle hire

Access the latest vehicles

Sources

- TfL: The Clean Air Action Plan Presentation at Freight in the City
- TfL: The Ultra Low Emission Zone is coming Will your vehicle be affected?
- TfL: Direct Vision Standard for HGVs
- FTA: Quiet Deliveries Demonstration Scheme, CLOCS
- Mayor of London's press release 4th April 2017