

## **London Introduces an Ultra-low Emission Zone - 9 May, 2019**

The streets of London are very busy. Thousands of cars, buses, lorries and other vehicles enter the city each day, and they cause congestion. In February, 2003, the city introduced a new regulation called the 'congestion charge' to reduce the number of vehicles. This means that people driving a vehicle in the centre of London between 07.00 and 18.00 on weekdays, have to pay a congestion charge, which is £11.50 per day.

The area of central London where drivers have to pay covers 21 square kilometres and includes many famous streets and landmarks. But air pollution in London is still a serious problem, and now the city has introduced a new regulation called the ULEZ (ultra-low emission zone).

The ULEZ covers the same 21 square kilometres, but drivers will now have to pay an extra charge 24 hours a day, seven days a week if they enter central London in a vehicle that does not meet certain standards.

The extra charge for vehicles that do not meet these standards is £12.50 a day for cars, motorbikes and vans and £100 a day for heavier vehicles such as lorries and buses.

The health problems caused by air pollution can be serious, so the city has decided to extend the ULEZ in 2021. It will not only cover the 21 square kilometres of the central zone but will cover a much bigger area – almost 380 square kilometres.

What types of vehicles enter London every day?

What do these vehicles cause?

What did the city do in 2003 and why did they do it?

What is this regulation called?

How much do drivers have to pay?

How big is the restricted zone?

Has it improved air quality?

What is the city now planning to do?

Does the new fee cover the same period of time as the old congestion charge?

How much is the new fee?

What will happen in 2021?

How big will be the new area where drivers will have to pay a fee?