

Amendment regulation to phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles to come into effect on September 1

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) announced today (July 2) that the Legislative Council has approved the Air Pollution Control (Air Pollutant Emission) (Controlled Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020.

An EPD spokesman said that the Amendment Regulation, which aims to take forward a new incentive-cum-regulatory programme to progressively phase out by the end of 2027 some 40 000 existing Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) including diesel goods vehicles, non-franchised buses and light buses, with a view to further improving roadside air quality, will come into effect on September 1, 2020. These vehicles were first registered within the period specified in Annex A. Under the programme, the Government will offer eligible vehicle owners ex-gratia payment ranging from 31 to 37 per cent of the average taxable value of a comparable new vehicle, having regard to the age of the vehicles concerned, and an extra 15 per cent subsidy based on average vehicle body prices for goods vehicles assembled with vehicular additions. The Government is preparing for the implementation of the programme and aims to launch it in the second half of 2020. The timing to start dispatching the ex-gratia payment will be announced at a later stage.

"The Amendment Regulation clearly stipulates the retirement deadlines for Euro IV DCVs (see Annex B) with reference to their respective dates of first registration," the spokesman said.

The Amendment Regulation requires the owners of the vehicles concerned to, on each application for a vehicle licence from the respective retirement deadlines as the case may be, comply with the emission standards applicable to the vehicles as if they were first registered on the date of the vehicle licence application. Failure to comply with the requirement may be grounds for the Commissioner for Transport to refuse to grant the vehicle licence.

"Some DCVs, which were originally designed as Euro V DCVs but were first registered on a date within the period as specified in Annex A and classified as Euro IV DCVs, will be categorised as Excluded Vehicles and will not be controlled under the Amendment Regulation. Despite that, their owners might choose to scrap and cancel the vehicle registration of their vehicles before December 31, 2027, and apply for the ex-gratia payment," the spokesman added.