

Tightening emission standards for newly approved non-road vehicles from January 1, 2019

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department said today (November 23) that the Legislative Council has approved the Air Pollution Control (Non-road Mobile Machinery) (Emission) (Amendment) Regulation 2018. From January 1, 2019, the Government will tighten in phases the statutory emission standards for newly approved non-road vehicles to improve air quality.

In accordance with the Amendment Regulation, the emission standards of newly approved non-road buses with design weight of more than 9 tonnes, light buses with design weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, goods vehicles and petrol private cars will be tightened from the prevailing Euro V to Euro VI. The emission standards for newly approved non-road diesel private cars will be tightened from California LEV II to California LEV III. For other non-road vehicle classes, including buses with design weight not exceeding 9 tonnes, light buses with design weight of more than 3.5 tonnes and special purpose vehicles, the prevailing emission standards will remain the same.

The spokesman added that, to prevent the transfer of old road vehicles which are no longer roadworthy into use for non-road applications, it is the Government's standing policy to adopt the same emission standards for non-road vehicles as those for road vehicles. Pursuant to the Government's tightening of the emission standards for newly registered road vehicles to Euro VI in phases since July 1, 2017, the Amendment Regulation will tighten the emission standards of the same classes of newly approved non-road vehicles in line with the latest emission standards for road vehicles.

Compared with their Euro V counterparts, Euro VI heavy duty diesel vehicles emit about 80 per cent less nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 50 per cent less respirable suspended particulates, while Euro VI light duty diesel vehicles emit about 55 per cent less NO_x.