

Vehicle emission standards to be tightened in phases from October 1

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) announced today (May 28) that the Legislative Council has approved the Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) (Amendment) Regulation 2020.

An EPD spokesman said that the Amendment Regulation will tighten the emission standards for first-registered motorcycles to Euro 4 from October 1, 2020, and first-registered light buses with a design weight of more than 3.5 tonnes and buses with a design weight of not more than 9 tonnes to Euro VI On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) Phase C from March 1, 2021.

"To improve roadside air quality and protect public health, the Government has a standing policy to tighten the emission standards of first-registered motor vehicles with reference to international developments and the supply of compliant vehicles to Hong Kong," the spokesman added.

Euro 4 petrol motorcycles emit about 50 per cent less total hydrocarbons (including volatile organic compounds (VOCs)) and about 60 per cent less nitrogen oxides (NOx) from tailpipes in comparison with their Euro 3 counterparts. Control on evaporative emission of VOCs and requirements for OBD systems are also incorporated into Euro 4 standards to further reduce their emissions.

Compared with their Euro V counterparts, Euro VI heavy duty diesel vehicles (including light buses with a design weight of more than 3.5 tonnes and buses with a design weight of not more than 9 tonnes) emit about 80 per cent less NOx and 50 per cent less respirable suspended particulates.

"The Amendment Regulation will help further reduce the emissions of motor vehicles and improve roadside air quality," the spokesman said.