

Amendment regulation to phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles gazetted

The Air Pollution Control (Air Pollutant Emission) (Controlled Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 to phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles was gazetted today (May 22).

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department said that the Amendment Regulation aims 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. 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 per cent 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 Amendment Regulation will stipulate 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 them 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. Furthermore, some DCVs, which were first registered on a date within the period as specified in Annex A but on the date of first registration had complied with the Euro V emission standards, will be excluded from the phasing out Euro IV DCVs programme and will not be categorised as controlled vehicles under the Amendment Regulation," the spokesman added.

The Amendment Regulation will be tabled in the Legislative Council for negative vetting on May 27. Subject to the approval of the Council, the Amendment Regulation will take effect on September 1, 2020.