

Case Study – Euro 2 van



This diesel Mercedes Sprinter van has been fitted with refrigeration equipment, meaning that the value of this vehicle to the owner remains high. The Gross Vehicle Weight of this van is 3,300kg and the unladen weight is 1,705kg. This means the Low Emission Zone applies to this vehicle from 3 January 2012.

This vehicle was registered for the first time with the DVLA in 1999, which means it currently meets the Euro 2 for Particular Matter (PM) emissions standard. It does not meet the required emission standard for this vehicle to drive within the LEZ without charge, which is Euro 3 for PM. If the owner wishes to continue to drive this van within London, he will have to take some action to meet the correct standard.

The owner could replace the vehicle, but the value of the vehicle is still high and the replacement cost would be expensive. The owner decides the easiest way to bring it up to the required emissions standard for the LEZ is to fit a filter to trap the PM emitted from the vehicle. The Mercedes Sprinter van is a popular make of vehicle, so a 'direct fit' solution is available, meaning there is a diesel particulate filter available which replaces the original front silencer on the exhaust. The total cost of fitting the filter would be about £1,500.

Only approved filters are accepted by TfL. There is a list of approved filters and the suppliers of these filters available on www.tfl.gov.uk/lez. The owner of the vehicle spoke to several suppliers on this list before choosing the solution mentioned above. It is important to do this to ensure you get the best price and because not all filters are suited to all vehicles and operating conditions.

Once the filter is fitted, the owner needs to get a certificate to prove that the filter is working properly. The owner booked his test at his nearest VOSA test station which he found through the VOSA website at <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/lez>. After the minibuss was tested the owner received a Low Emission Certificate (LEC). The owner waited 10 days until TfL had received the certificate information from VOSA. The owner can now drive the minibuss within the LEZ from 3 January 2012 without having to pay the daily charge.