

# Pre-Euro Coach

Transport for London

## Low Emission Zone



A Bedfordshire coach company operates this Volvo B10M. It is used regularly for sight-seeing visits to London, often with parties of students from schools and colleges. It is also used on a number of school contracts for a Local Education Authority in conjunction with other fleet vehicles.

The London Low Emission Zone will apply to this vehicle from 7th July 2008 when it will be required to meet the Euro III standard for particulate matter (PM). This standard rises to Euro IV for PM in January 2012.

In order to establish what is needed for a vehicle to comply with the London Low Emission Zone requirements, it is essential to know the exact engine version that is installed. This can be read on the manufacturer's data plate, which on a vehicle like this, should be positioned just inside the front doors to the right, or on the emergency exit door frame at the rear. If the engine is certified to the Euro III standard, then no modifications or registration will be necessary.

The vehicle featured here was built in 1985 and has a DH10A285 engine which pre-dates the introduction of the Euro emissions standards and will not comply with the Euro III PM standard without modification.

### Pre-Euro Engine

Given the age of the current engine in the vehicle, the only way to modify it to meet the Euro III standard for PM is to fit a full-flow Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF).

Generally, when selecting a PM abatement device there are two key considerations:

- The typical operating conditions (i.e. low mileage, slow speed, stop-start conditions or higher speed, long distance use); and
- The length of time the vehicle is expected to remain in operation (i.e. up to or beyond 2012 when the LEZ emissions standards increase to Euro IV for PM).

Only approved devices can be used to meet the requirements of the London LEZ. It is important that any retrofit device is selected from either the LEC Approved Devices list or the RPC Approved Devices list, both of which are published on the TfL website. It should also be matched specifically to the engine and the operating conditions of the vehicle. Approved suppliers, listed on the TfL website, should be able to advise on the most appropriate equipment to suit any vehicle and this is particularly important here as not all systems are suitable for use with old or worn engines.

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Vehicles fitted with non-approved devices will not pass the VOSA inspection that is required to certify compliance with the LEZ standards.

For a Pre-Euro vehicle such as this, a full-flow Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) would be the only suitable abatement device, and would ensure the vehicle meets the 2008 LEZ emissions standard. This will allow the vehicle to be used within the London Low Emission Zone without paying the daily charge only until 2012 when the standard increases to Euro IV for PM.

A full-flow DPF for a vehicle of this size is likely to require an active regeneration system and would typically cost around £5,500. With the normal levels of usage, it would be necessary to remove ash residue once or twice each year. This is a specialist task that can be completed on-site by an appropriate supplier for around £150-£200.

### Vehicle Inspection and Registration

Once a filter has been fitted the operator should book a test at a local VOSA test station. If it passes an inspection and an appropriate smoke test a Low Emissions Certificate (LEC) or a Reduced Pollution Certificate (RPC) will be

issued. These certificates are valid for 12 months only and must be renewed annually. A vehicle with a valid LEC or RPC can be driven within the LEZ without being subject to the daily charge.

When VOSA issue the certificate they will inform TfL, and the vehicle details will be updated on TfL's database within 10 days.

Please allow enough time for this before travelling in the zone. The Low Emission Zone compliance status of the vehicle can be checked on the TfL website.

For further information visit [tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon](http://tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon) or call 0845 607 0009.

Details correct at time of publication.  
September 2007