



Vehicle Emissions Testing

The Corporation of London is taking part in the first London-wide roadside vehicle exhaust-testing programme with the aim of helping to improve London's air quality. The scheme is being run by the Association of London Government and the Mayor of London. It has been funded by the Department of Transport and the Mayor of London.

From July 2003, potentially polluting vehicles driving through London will be pulled over by police officers for qualified independent testers to carry out spot checks.

The crackdown aims to reduce the huge contribution vehicles make to pollution in London. One in five vehicles are estimated to break the legal amount of emissions set under the MOT test.

London is one of the most polluted cities in the world, with the poor air quality causing more than 1,600 premature deaths each year from breathing problems and heart conditions.

The vehicle checkers will test vehicles for pollutants including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons. High emissions mean that a vehicle is not running as efficiently as it could.

Under new government legislation, drivers of vehicles found to be above the emission limits set by MOT tests will either be warned or fined, depending on how much they exceed this limit. If they are fined, they will be issued with a £60 fixed penalty charge, reduced to £30 if the vehicle is brought into MOT standard within 14 days.

Details of the programme are being advertised through a major leaflet and poster campaign, bearing the newly created 'Smoking kills' logo. These will give motorists information that will help improve the capital's air quality and could also save them money. These include keeping their engines tuned, avoiding accelerating and braking sharply, and switching off their vehicle's engine when parked.

For further information see the smoking kills web site **www.alg.gov.uk/smokingkills**.