

New rules to clean up taxi trade

FROM 2018, all taxis licensed for the first time must be zero-emission capable. This means there will be no new diesel taxis in London.

NEW private hire vehicles must follow suit from 2020.

The requirements were confirmed by the Mayor and TfL yesterday as they outlined how the taxi and private hire trades will play their part in improving London's air quality when the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is launched in the capital in 2020.

Funding of £65million has been secured by the Mayor and TfL to help drivers adhere to the new rules. There is a target to get 9,000



zero-emission capable taxis on the streets of London by 2020.

Up to £5,000 will be available to taxi drivers who wish to decommission their vehicle once it reaches 10 years old, and a further £5,000

plug-in car grant is available through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, with a possible £3,000 'top-up'. The same plug-in grants are also available for private hire drivers.

The scheme encourages cabbies to remove the oldest, most polluting vehicles from London's hire fleet and upgrade to new environmentally friendly taxis.

Mayor Boris Johnson said: 'The taxi and minicab trades have a crucial role to play in helping to improve London's air quality. We understand this will take time and that is why we are giving financial assistance to help clean up these vehicle fleets.'

'The Ultra Low Emission Zone is the most ambitious measure of its kind in the world and we need everyone on board for it to be a success.'

Before ULEZ requirements are introduced, private hire vehicles will also need to meet various standards to obtain a licence:

- New vehicles must be fitted with a Euro 6 petrol or diesel engine, or a Euro 4 petrol-hybrid engine between January 1 2018 and December 31 2019
- New vehicles under 18 months old must be zero emission capable from January 1 2020
- Older vehicles will need to be fitted with a Euro 6 engine if licensed for the first time between January 1 2020 and December 31 2022 – and be zero-emission capable from 2023



Scrum on down for the rugby!

THOUSANDS of people are coming to London to enjoy the Rugby World Cup final this weekend.

As well as watching the action in bars and pubs, spectators can also head for one of the capital's fanzones to enjoy the events and soak up the atmosphere.

Trafalgar Square

London's famous square is hosting a fanzone all this week, culminating with the final on Saturday.

Open daily, a giant screen will broadcast match highlights, interviews and news, along with the live game.

A mini pitch will take pride of place in the middle of the square for rugby coaching and various rugby-related activities, so it's the place to be to

pick up some tips.

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross, Embankment and Piccadilly Circus.

Richmond

Fans can also enjoy the action on a giant HD screen at Old Deer Park in Richmond, open on Friday 5pm to 11.30pm, and Saturday from noon to 11.30pm.

Plus there is entertainment including live comedy acts, fairground rides, games and demonstrations on an exhibition rugby pitch.

Nearest transport: Richmond Tube or buses 65, 190, 419, 490, 493, H22, R68, R70.

■ To plan your journey visit tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

Trafalgar Square fanzone: what's on this week

'Find Rugby' days, today, tomorrow and Thursday, 10am to 5pm
The non-contact version of the sport will be showcased by O2 Touch today, suitable for young and old, male or female.

Tomorrow and on Thursday people can find out about opportunities to stay involved in rugby through refereeing and coaching.

Women will be encouraged to try the sport on **Thursday**, when Rugby Women will hold sessions to attract female players to the field.

World Cup Final day Saturday, 10am to 8pm
The final will be shown live on HD screen.

Tweet your taxi questions today

HAVE a question about taxi and private hire services in London? Join a Twitter chat this morning from 11am as Helen Chapman, general manager of taxi and private hire, answers questions relating to both trades for an hour.

■ Tweet your questions to @TfL using the hashtag #TaxiChatTfL

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