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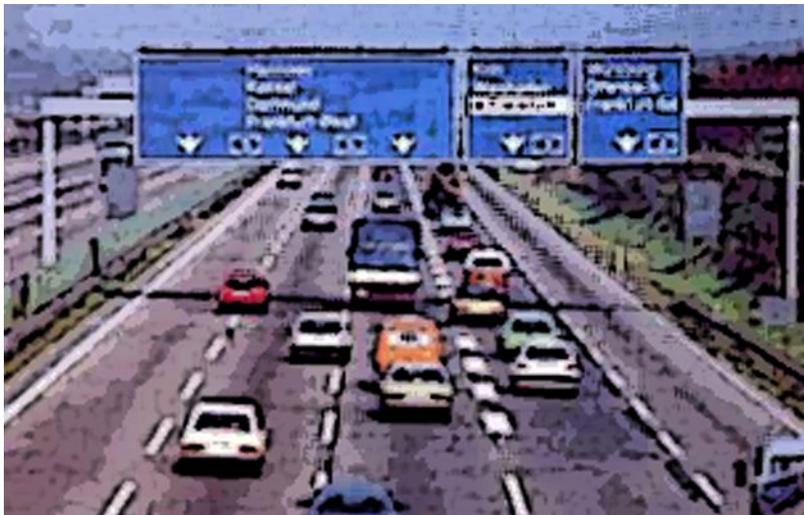
Jan. 11, 2008

CREATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ZONES IN GERMAN CITIES MEANS NEW RULES FOR U.S. ARMY EUROPE DRIVERS

(NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC, PLEASE CALL THE CONTACT NUMBERS NOTED AT THE END OF THE STORY.)

U.S. Army Europe Registry of Motor Vehicles release

MANNHEIM, Germany -- German cities can now establish “environmental protection zones” (Umweltzone) where motor vehicles that do not bear a decal certifying that they meet acceptable emission standards are prohibited, say U.S. Army Europe Registry of Motor Vehicles officials.



The cities of Berlin, Hannover and Koln implemented protection zones January 1. Zones will go into effect in Mannheim and Stuttgart March 1, and other cities may create zones at later dates.

The new law requires that all motor vehicles, including those with U.S. Army Europe license plates, bear an

appropriate emissions decal on their lower right (passenger) side of their windshields to enter a protection zone. Failure to display a decal in a protection zone can result in a 40 euro fine.

USAREUR drivers can get the new decals free of charge at the vehicle registration offices in their communities beginning in late January, RMV officials say. Drivers in Berlin have already received the decals.

The new standards apply to personal vehicles or non-tactical official vehicles bearing plates from the USAREUR vehicle registry, RMV officials say. Pick-up trucks will be categorized the same as cars.

The law outlines four emissions categories. Vehicles in Category 1 will bear no decal, and cannot be driven in a protection zone. A red decal will be provided for vehicles in Category 2 that allows the vehicle to be driven for five years, during which time those vehicles must be converted to meet Category 3 or Category 4 emission standards. Category 3 vehicles will be designated by a yellow decal, and Category 4 vehicles will bear a green decal and have no restrictions.

The basic rules for the emission categories are:

- Vehicles with diesel engines registered before Jan. 1, 1997 will be designated as Category 1, and will get no decal.
- Vehicles with diesel engines registered between Jan. 1, 1997 and Dec. 31, 2000 will be designated as Category 2 and will display a red decal.
- Vehicles with diesel engines registered from Jan. 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2005 will be designated as Category 3 and will display a yellow decal.
- Vehicles with diesel engines registered from Jan. 1, 2006 and later will be designated as Category 4 and will display a green decal.
- Vehicles with gasoline engines registered before Jan. 1, 1993 will be designated as Category 1 and get no decal.
- Vehicles with gasoline engines registered after Jan. 1, 1993 will be designated as Category 4 and will display a green decal.

Drivers whose vehicles have a lower rating than Category 4 can have their vehicles converted to meet higher standards and get a new emissions decal from approved repair or inspection facility.

For more information, call the USAREUR RMV customer service office at 386-7289 or 0621-718-7279.



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