

Euro 5 exhaust emissions



Euro 5 – cleaning up emissions

During the past few years European law has been steadily cleaning up car and truck exhaust emissions. The next wave of legislation comes into force in September 2009 and is known as the Euro 5 emissions standard, or Euro 5, as it is often referred to within the car industry. Euro 5 is much tougher than the existing Euro 4 standards, especially for diesel engines. You may already be aware that diesel engines are more economical than their petrol counterparts and produce less CO₂. Unfortunately they also emit more harmful oxides of nitrogen, or NO_x, and more particulate matter – the ‘soot’ or ‘smoke’ that you sometimes see emerging from the exhaust pipe of diesel cars during brisk acceleration. The European authorities believe that cleaning up diesel particulates emissions will have a positive impact on the respiratory health of its citizens, especially those who live in urban areas.

How clean is clean?

The Euro 5 regulations will cut emissions of particulate matter by a substantial 80% (5mg per kilometre instead of the current 25mg) compared with the Euro 4 limits. Honda has

developed a new diesel engine with innovative technology to achieve this, including the use of a ‘particulate filter’ within the exhaust that traps sooty particles.

The new Honda Accord 2.2 i-DTEC ES GT emits only 146mg per kilometre of NO_x and 2.4mg per kilometre of particulates, easily surpassing the Euro 5 standards, and comfortably in advance of their introduction.

When does all this happen?

From September 2009 any proposed new car will have to be Euro 5 compliant to obtain approval for production from the European authorities. And as of January 2011, all new cars for sale in Europe will have to comply with the demanding emissions standards.

Will I have to do anything?

No. It’s up to the car makers to ensure new vehicles satisfy the Euro 5 regulations, because if they don’t then those cars will not be able to be sold in Europe. However, given that Euro 5 is for the good of us all, you might consider choosing a car that is already Euro 5 compliant. All of the new Honda Accord range, whether powered by diesel or petrol engines, already meet the new standards.

