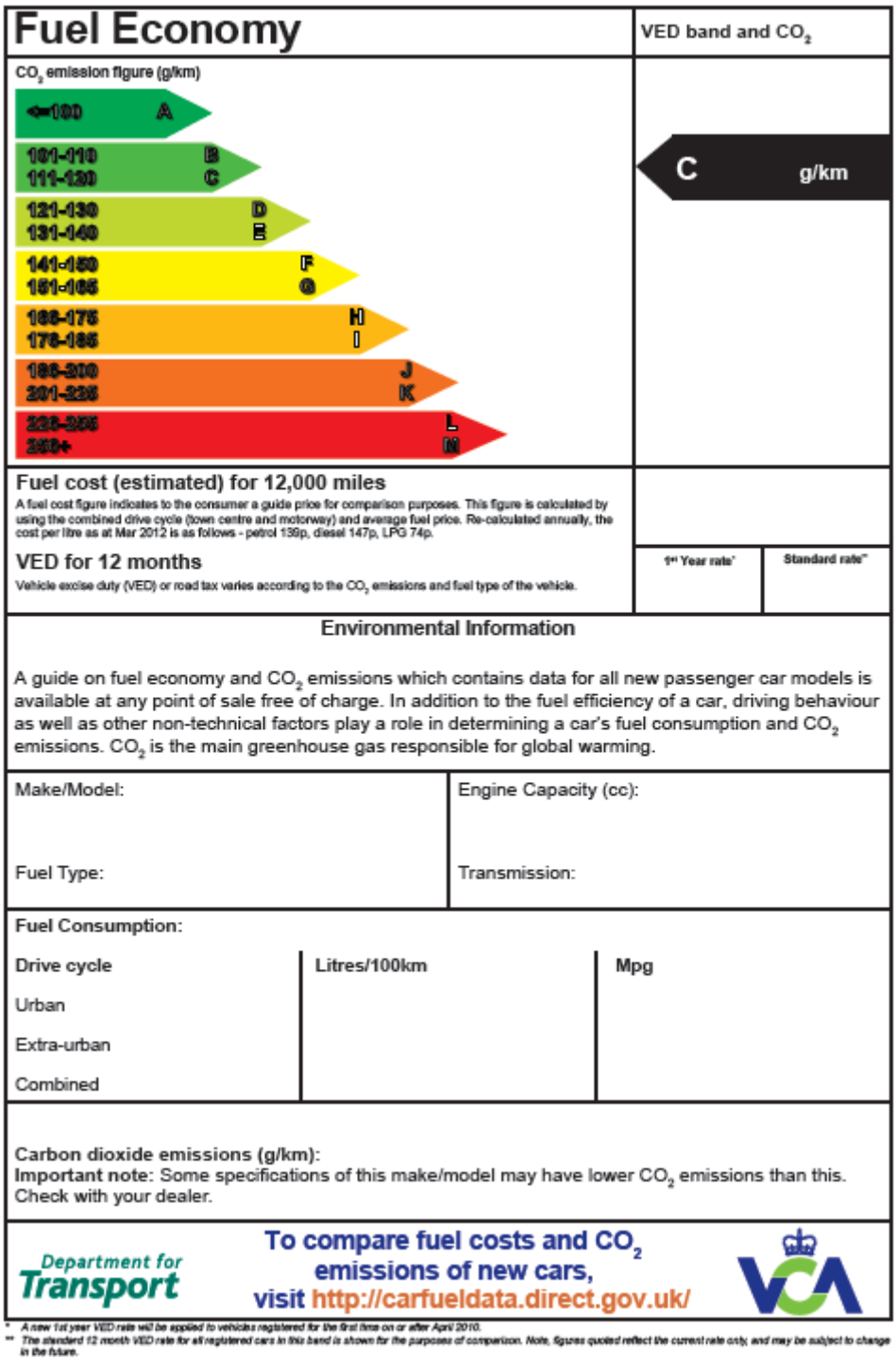
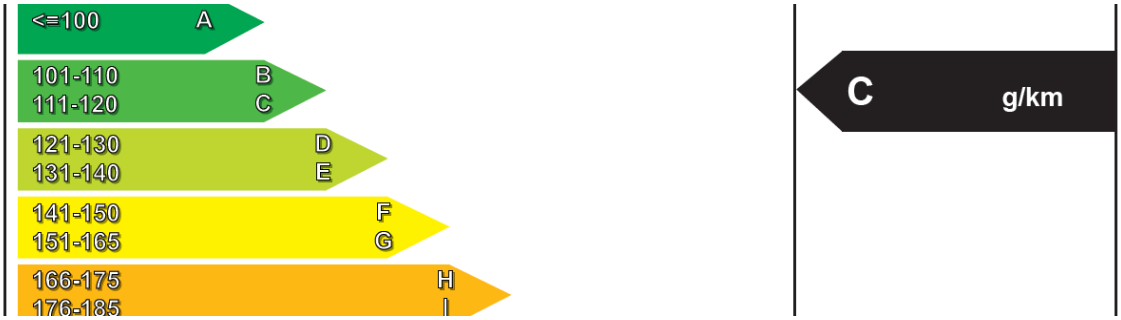
1. Example of the environmental label (effective from 1 April 2010), and description of the fields

This label is used for cars that have a conventional propulsion system – petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG. It will also be used for those cars that have a hybrid-electric drive system but do not use charge from an external power source.

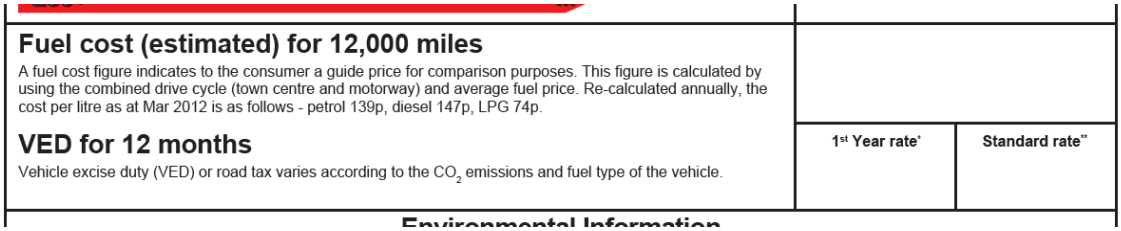


(an Alternative text description of the label is available here)

Description of the fields



Cars are taxed according to the level of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) produced and arranged into thirteen bands - each assigned a letter of the alphabet. The actual CO2 value of the car on display will be shown in the black box to the right and correspond to one of those bands.



The fuel cost of driving 12,000 miles - is calculated using the combined fuel consumption figure and the respective average fuel figures published in the VCA annual publication 'New Car Fuel Consumption and Emission Figures'. The fuel figures used are those published by the Department of Trade and Industry in March each year. There are many changes to fuel prices during the course of a year, as well as many regional variations. For this reason, the average figure is used, which ensures a level playing field for comparison purposes.

The fuel costs are calculated as follows:

12000 x A x 4.546 / B

A = The current cost per litre of petrol, diesel or LPG (as applies to the car), e.g. .£1.39, £1.47 or £0.74
B = The imperial combined fuel consumption figure (MPG)
4.546 = The figure for conversion of litres to imperial gallons

The VED for 12 months - Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) – more commonly known as ‘Road Tax’ or ‘Road Fund licence’. The “1st year rate” is the amount of VED that will be due for the very first year following registration. In subsequent years, the “Standard rate” will apply. The currently applicable tax rates can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax-rate-tables

Make/Model: Fuel Type:	Engine Capacity (cc): Transmission:

Fuel Consumption:

Drive cycle	Litres/100km	Mpg
Urban		
Extra-urban		
Combined		

Carbon dioxide emissions (g/km):
Important note: Some specifications of this make/model may have lower CO_2 emissions than this. Check with your dealer.

Note that this is the mandatory section of the label, as set out in “The Passenger Car (Fuel consumption and CO2 Emissions Information) Regulations 2001 (as amended)”

Make /Model – the make is usually the name of the manufacturer. Only cars built by manufacturers to European M1 standards will need to display a label. They do not include makers of low-volume cars, or those that build 4 wheeled 'L' class vehicles. Model definitions are taken from the EC Type Approval documentation, so may differ slightly from final commercial descriptions that include trim levels.

Engine capacity (cc) – often referred to as the engine size in cubic centimetres (cc)

Fuel-type - mainly petrol and diesel, although a number of cars powered by alternative fuels will also use this label including:

- CNG – car that runs on Compressed Natural Gas.
- LPG – car that runs on Liquified Petroleum Gas.
- Hybrid-electric, Petrol electric or Diesel electric – all terms used to describe a car using both a traditionally fuelled engine and stored electrical energy produced on board the vehicle to propel the car. Hybrid – a term used to describe any car that will run on both stored electricity, and energy provided by an internal combustion engine. Note there is a separate label for cars that use a hybrid-electric drive system which can take some of its charge from an external power source.

Transmission – is the car a ‘Manual’ or ‘Automatic’.

Fuel consumption

Urban drive cycle - The urban test cycle is carried out in a laboratory at an ambient temperature of twenty degrees celsius to thirty degrees celsius on a rolling road from a cold start, i.e. the engine has not run for several hours. The cycle consists of a series of accelerations, steady speeds, decelerations and idling. Maximum speed is 31 mph (50 km/h), average speed 12 mph (19 km/h) and the distance covered is 2.5 miles (4 km). The Mpg figure is a conversion of the metric results.

Extra-urban fuel consumption - The extra-urban cycle is conducted immediately following the urban cycle and consists roughly half steady speed driving and the remainder accelerations, decelerations and some idling. Maximum speed is 75 mph (120 km/h),

average speed is 39 mph (63 km/h) and the distance covered is 4.3 miles (7 km). The Mpg figure is a conversion of the metric results.

Combined fuel consumption - The combined figure presented is for the urban and the extra-urban cycle together. It is therefore an average of the two other parts of the fuel consumption test, urban and extra-urban cycles, weighted by the distance covered in each part. The Mpg figure is a conversion of the metric results.

CO2 emissions [g/km] - The actual CO2 value of the car on display will be shown here, and in the black box above. When petrol or diesel is burnt for energy the main by-products are water vapour and carbon dioxide (CO2). Carbon dioxide is the most important of the greenhouse gases which are contributing to climate change. In 6000 miles a car will produce roughly its own weight in CO2.

A larger version of the latest label can be downloaded here: http://carfueldata.direct.gov.uk/downloads/default.aspx *(opens in a new browser window)*

Manufacturers wishing to find out more about our POS system (or obtain a full suite of labels) are invited to contact us on +44 (0)117 9524109, or by e-mailing us at fuel@vca.gov.uk.