



ZERO-EMISSION HEAVY DUTY VEHICLE PURCHASE GRANT SCHEME INFORMATION GUIDE

1. General

- 1.1 This Information Guide must be read with the Grant Offer Letter and Terms & Conditions which govern the Zero-Emission Heavy Duty Vehicle (**ZEHDV**) purchase grant scheme (the **Scheme**).
- 1.2 This document is not a legal document and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of the relevant legislation or legal documents.
- 1.3 In the event of there being any inconsistency or discrepancy between this Information Guide and the terms of the Grant Letter, the terms of the Grant Offer Letter shall prevail.
- 1.4 Under the Scheme, the Minister of Transport, acting through the Department of Transport (the **Department**), will provide funding to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (**TII**), which, in turn, administers the Scheme, with the assistance of Piers Fitzgibbon Solicitors LLP which acts as the Scheme Operator. Through Piers Fitzgibbon Solicitors LLP, TII provides grants (**Grants**) to applicants (**Applicants**) satisfying certain criteria as set out in the Grant Letter and Terms & Conditions.
- 1.5 Any vehicles already ordered or purchased are not eligible for support under the Scheme.
- 1.6 The Scheme is subject to review by the Minister for Transport (the **Minister**) and TII from time to time. The Scheme may be amended or terminated by TII in accordance with the terms of the Grant Letter.

2. Background

- 2.1 The transport sector accounts for approximately 20% of Ireland's national greenhouse gas emissions, and transformational change is required if the sector is to reduce emissions in line with national and international commitments. Although heavy duty vehicles (**HDVs**) only account for approximately 5% of vehicles on European Union (**EU**) roads, they are responsible for around 25% of all road transport emissions. Projections indicate that without significant policy action, an upward emission trajectory is set to continue. Developing mitigation measures to successfully tackle emissions from this sector is an increasingly important objective.
- 2.2 To mitigate against this upward emission trajectory, the Department and the Zero Emission Vehicle Ireland (**ZEVI**) determined the need for financial supports for the HDV sector, to assist in the transition to lower emitting alternatives.
- 2.3 At the request of the Department, TII has been tasked with establishment and administration of the Scheme to aid in our national transport decarbonisation efforts and the transition to zero emission vehicle technologies with the objective of reducing transport emissions and pollutants. The Scheme aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of the heavy duty transport sector, which includes vans, trucks, buses and coaches.
- 2.4 TII has secured funding from the Department to assist vehicle purchasers to bridge the price differential between zero-emission and conventional HDV technologies. Each year, funding for the Scheme will be determined by the Department as part of the annual estimates process, following consultation with TII.
- 2.5 The Grant is provided to facilitate the purchase of zero-emission Heavy Duty Vehicles in order

to accelerate the use of sustainable, accessible and smart transport.

3. What is the Scheme Period

- 3.1 The Scheme commences on 1 November of each calendar year for the following budgetary year. Applications for Grants may be made from that date for the scheme associated with the following budgetary year.
- 3.2 Applications may be submitted in each calendar year until the earlier of:
- 30 September of that calendar year; or
 - the date on which funds for the Scheme for the calendar year in question have been exhausted, (the *Scheme End Date*).
- 3.3 The acceptance of Applications and then the making and timing of payments under the Scheme is wholly dependent on the level of funding allocated by Government to the Scheme in a particular calendar year.

4. What Vehicles are Eligible under the Scheme?

- 4.1 TII shall publish on its website from time to time a list of the categories of HDVs and power train eligible for the Scheme, by reference to the definition of a “zero-emission vehicle” set out in the GBER. The following table summarises the vehicle categories that are eligible for the Grant.

Table 1: Vehicle categories

EU CATEGORY	VEHICLE TYPE	WEIGHT RANGE (GVW)
N2	Van/light truck	Over 3.5t to c. 5t
N2	Van/light truck	c. 5.5t to 8.5t
N2 and N3	Truck	Over 8.5t to 16t
N3	Rigid Truck	Over 16t to 20t
N3	Articulated Truck	Over 16t to 19t
N3	Rigid/ Articulated Truck	Over 19t to 46t
N3	Refuse collection truck (refuse rear end loader or 'bin lorry')	(Finished vehicle consisting of a c. 26t+ chassis plus bodywork)
M2	Mini bus	c. 11-17 seats (Approx. indicative weight range of 3.5 to c. 5t)
M3	Midi bus	c. 21-32 seats (Approx. indicative weight range of c. 8t to 10t)
M3	Single deck bus	c. 40+ seats (Approx. indicative weight range of c. 11t to 14t)
M3	Single deck coach	c. 40+ seats (Approx. indicative weight range of c. 13.5t and over)
M3	Double deck coach	c.75+ seats Low floor with ramp access
M3	Double deck bus (Euro VI diesel)	c 65+ seats

- 4.2 Subject to the requirements of the Grant Letter and Terms & Conditions of the Scheme the following types of HDV are eligible for the Grant:
- a Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle, meaning a new electric motor vehicle powered by a fuel cell in combination with a battery or supercapacitor;

- (b) a Battery Electric Vehicle, meaning a new vehicle that is powered by an electric battery which can only be charged and re-charged by plugging in to an external electric power source;
- (c) a Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicle, meaning a new vehicle that is powered by a battery that may be charged and re-charged by plugging it into an external electric power source as well as by its on-board engine and generator; or
- (d) a hydrogen powered vehicle.

5. Who can avail of the Scheme

- 5.1 Any enterprise, whether private, public or commercial may apply for this scheme. This includes any sole trader, company or statutory corporation.
- 5.2 Where the Applicant is predominantly established in an EU Member State that is not Ireland, the Applicant must show that it has some establishment, branch or activity within Ireland.
- 5.3 The Applicant and its Affiliates have not received Grants under the Scheme where the combined total of the Grants exceeds €500,000 within the budgetary year of the grant application.

6. How is the Grant Amount Determined?

- 6.1 The maximum amount of the Grant is the difference between €500,000 and the aggregate amount received through previous grant applications under the Scheme within the budgetary year of the grant application.
- 6.2 GBER sets out the maximum aid amount that can be allocated from state funds to support the purchase of zero emission vehicles under EU state aid rules, the Provisional Grant Amount in respect of ZEHDV varies by reference to:
 - (a) the size of the undertaking applying for the grant, i.e. whether the undertaking can be categorised as ‘small’, ‘medium’ or ‘large’;
- 6.3 Undertaking size is determined by definitions developed by the EU and based on staff head count and turnover. The following table summarises how the sizes of undertakings are defined under the Scheme and how this relates to the base level of aid intensity available to eligible applicants.

Table 2. Size of undertaking and percentage of eligible costs

SIZE OF UNDERTAKING	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
Staff head-count; turnover/balance sheet total	Fewer than 50 staff; ≤ € 10 m/≤ € 10 m	Fewer than 250 staff; ≤ € 50 m/≤ € 43 m	More than 250 staff; > € 50 m/> € 43 m
Base level aid intensity per size of undertaking	60% of eligible costs	50% of eligible costs	20% of eligible costs

- 6.4 In the case of newly-established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply is to be derived from a *bona fide* estimate made in the course of the financial year.

6.5 For additional information on the definition of ‘small’, ‘medium’ and ‘large’ enterprises and on the type of data required to demonstrate the relative size of an undertaking, Applicants are advised to consult Annex I, Articles 1 to 6 of GBER and the European Union Commission’s *User Guide to the SME Definition*.

7. What are the Eligible Costs

7.1 The Eligible Costs are the costs associated with the purchase of a new ZEHDV. Those costs include:

- (a) the difference in purchase price (excluding any applicable Value Added Tax and/or discounts) between the Vehicle; and
- (b) a HDV with the same or similar specifications as the Vehicle but which operates using a diesel fuelled power train;

7.2 Excluded Costs are the costs that may be associated with the purchase of a new ZEHDV which will not be funded under the scheme as follows:

- (a) any costs incurred on or before the date of entry of the Grant Letter;
- (b) any costs that are associated with the vehicle that are not part of the body, chassis or cab of the vehicle;
- (c) any costs incurred in connection with an Application;
- (d) (any cost incurred in connection with the operation of the Vehicle;
- (e) any professional fees incurred in connection with an Application or a Grant Letter or any matter contemplated by any of them;
- (f) any cost incurred in connection with the provision of credit;
- (g) Value Added Tax, including any Value Added Tax incurred in connection with an Eligible Cost;
- (h) any other costs not specifically identified as an Eligible Costs.

8. How is the Grant process managed

8.1 The following process will apply to those looking to apply for a Grant towards the purchase of a ZEHDV:

- (a) The Applicant will complete an application form located on TII’s website (the Grant Application Form) and supply the required information as part of the application process and submitted it electronically, to the Scheme Operator’s email, zehdvgrant@pierse.ie.
 - (i) Applications will be considered by the Scheme Operator on a “first received” basis, subject to an application being satisfactorily completed.
- (b) Upon receipt of the information provided in the Grant Application Form, the Scheme Operator will complete the following:
 - (i) Determine the base level of aid intensity entitled to the applicant based on the Applicants SME size.

- (ii) Determine if the vehicles are eligible for aid under the Scheme Terms & Conditions.
 - (iii) Determine the Provisional Grant Amount for the application based on the level of aid intensity and the costs submitted as part of the application.
 - (iv) Issue a Grant letter to the Applicant containing proposed grant amount to be made available to the Applicant.
- (c) The Applicant will have twenty-one (21) days to accept the Grant Letter by returning a signed copy to zehdvgrant@pierse.ie. If the Grant Letter is not accepted within 21 days the application will be cancelled.
- (d) If the Applicant accepts the Grant Letter in accordance with its terms, the Applicant can then purchase the Infrastructure and supply further information required under the terms of the Grant Letter to the Scheme Operator.
- (e) The Applicant will have until 31 October of the budgetary year in which the Grant Letter has been accepted to satisfy its obligations in this regard (the “Grant Availability Period”).
- 8.2 The following process will apply to those looking to request for payment of an approved Grant:
- (a) It is only possible to make one grant drawdown per application. If the grant drawdown does not make a claim for all the vehicles associated with the application, the vehicle not claimed will be permanently removed from the application and the grant offer will no longer apply to the vehicle.
 - (b) The following information must be provided to zehdvgrant@pierse.ie to allow a payment request to be assessed:
 - (i) Logbook per Vehicle,
 - (ii) Invoice per Vehicle,
 - (iii) Insurance per Vehicle / Fleet Insurance,
 - (iv) Tax Disk per Vehicle,
 - (v) Company Tax Clearance Number
 - (c) Upon receipt of the information provided in accordance with the Grant Letter the Scheme Operator will complete the following:
 - (i) Verify the SME status of the Applicant,
 - (ii) Verify the eligible costs for each vehicle covered under the grant letter,
 - (iii) Verify if all the vehicles purchased are eligible for state aid under the Scheme.
 - (iv) Determine the final grant amount eligible under information provided, in accordance with the Grant Letter.
 - (d) The final grant amount will be notified to the Grantee by the Scheme Operator after which payment of the Grant will be made at TII’s discretion, but no later than two (2) months following Scheme Operators confirmation of the grant amount.
- 8.3 The following process will apply to those looking to request an extension of the Grant Availability Period of an approved Grant due to an Excusing Event:
- (a) A grant extension can be requested under the following circumstances:
 - (i) Delays in the supply of vehicle by the relevant supplier for more than 3 months after the date indicated to you by such supplier, due to supply-chain issues.



- (ii) you can demonstrate to our satisfaction that your ability to purchase the vehicle within the Grant Availability Period is directly and materially adversely affected by any Excusing Event; and
- (iii) you are not responsible for, and did not contribute to, such Excusing Event (by reason of a breach of an obligation or failure to perform a requirement).
- (b) A grant extension must be requested in writing to zehdvgrant@pierse.ie within 5 working days of the event becoming known and contain the following information:
 - (i) full details of such circumstances, including their nature, the date of their occurrence and their duration; and
 - (ii) the direct linkage between the Excusing Event and your ability to complete the associated installation works within the Grant Availability Period.
- (c) The Scheme Operator will review the request and determine if the request is appropriate under the Grant Letter and Terms & Conditions.
- (d) Where the request is accepted the Scheme Operator will extend the Grant Availability Period by 12 months.
- (e) Under no circumstances shall the Grant Availability Period be extended more than once, irrespective of the number of Excusing Events or their respective effect on the applicant.

9. How to Contact Us

For further details of the Scheme please contact Pierse Fitzgibbon Solicitors, the Scheme Operator, at:

- Email: zehdvgrant@pierse.ie
- Phone: 068 56789



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Department of Transport

