

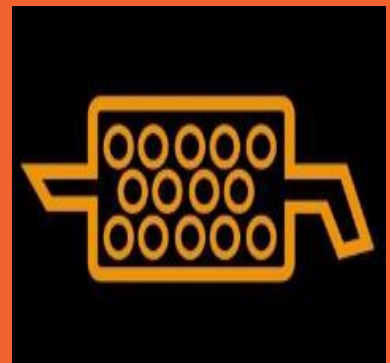
FAQs on Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs)

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What is a diesel particulate filter (DPF)? This is a filter which is placed in the exhaust system of a diesel vehicle to remove particulate matter or trap soot from exhaust gases in the case of diesel engines. It helps reduce harmful emissions released into the atmosphere and assists Ireland in meeting European emission standards.

How do I know if a DPF is blocked?

If the DPF becomes clogged with soot or a fault develops in the system an orange light will typically appear on the dashboard as shown. Other signs can include a reduction in power or reduced fuel economy. For further information check your owner's manual or contact the original manufacturer.



What causes a DPF to block? Short journeys at low speeds and poorly serviced cars are some of the causes. A long drive can assist in clearing out the DPF and it is also important to use the correct fuel as some diesels contain additives that can actually block filters.

What is particulate matter (PM)? This is a mixture of small solid and liquid particles that are suspended in air including carbon, ammonium, sulphate, mineral dust and water. It can be produced either directly as a consequence of a certain activity e.g. an engine, or from reactions between other pollutants in the atmosphere.

What is DPF regeneration? DPF's need to be emptied of trapped particulate matter on a regular basis which involves burning the soot present at a very high temperature leaving behind only a very small residue of matter. Sometimes when you turn your diesel engine off you can hear a fan running. This is the regeneration sound.

Is it illegal to remove a DPF? Yes. Under [S.I. No. 190 of 1963](#) of Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use Regulations 1963 (as amended), it is an offence to use a vehicle that has been modified in such a way that it emits any harmful content that may cause damage to person or property or endanger the safety or health of any other user of the public place. Removal of a DPF will almost invariably contravene these requirements making the vehicle illegal for road use thus potentially resulting in penalties. The enforcement of road traffic legislation is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Why is it illegal to remove a DPF? By removing a DPF you are allowing harmful cancer causing toxic emissions to be released into the environment. Diesel vehicles are more fuel efficient and so are cheaper to run but they also produce more pollution. Therefore environmental protection features such as DPFs and diesel exhaust fluid systems or [Adblue](#) are required to help reduce the amount of dangerous emissions entering the atmosphere.

Who is responsible for certification and testing of the smoke meters in Ireland? The manufacturer or authorised distributor is normally responsible for the calibration of the smoke meters in Ireland. The agent does not have to be independently accredited. The calibration intervals for smoke meters used for passenger cars at NCT are every 6 months and for commercial vehicles (CVRT) every 12 months.