

(Extracted from MLIT Press Release dated July 29, 2002)

## Ultra-Low PM Emission Diesel Vehicle Certification System Launched

Submitted by Japan

Air pollution caused by particulate matter (PM) emitted by automobiles - suspected source of health hazards such as cancer, bronchial asthma, pollen allergen - is still very serious. The compliance rate with the environmental quality standard for PM in large cities remains at a low level (52%).

In view of this situation, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport plans to enforce more rigorous emissions control regulation from October 2003 on (by about 30% severer in terms of PM). On the other hand, to encourage the development and spread of diesel vehicles emitting even less particulate matter, the Ministry launched on July 29, 2002 a plan to certify and publish ultra low PM emissions diesel vehicles, which will be put into service from September 1.

[PM emissions (g/kWh) by very low PM emissions diesel vehicles]

