# Germany gives Daimler deadline to submit fix for diesel vans

May 28 2018

Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche arrives at the German transport ministry in Berlin Monday, May 28, 2018 where he had be summoned by German transportation Minister Andreas Scheuer after German authorities ruled that the Mercedes-Benz Vito delivery van's diesel emissions controls do not meet legal requirements. (Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP)

German authorities are giving automaker Daimler until mid-June to submit a plan for how it will fix diesel-powered vans that don't meet emissions requirements.

The announcement came after Daimler chairman Dieter Zetsche was summoned to the transport ministry on Monday, the latest instance of a German auto executive being grilled over excessive emissions in diesel vehicles .

Daimler was ordered to recall over 6,000 Mercedes-Benz Vito delivery vans last week after Germany's motor vehicle authority concluded the vans used a so-called defeat device to skirt emissions limits. The company said it disagreed with authorities' assessment, but would prepare software updates for the vehicles' engine control systems and carry out the updates at no cost to vehicle owners.

Andreas Scheuer, Germany's transport minister, said he plans to have another meeting with Zetsche in two weeks. The motor vehicle authority set a June 15 deadline for Daimler to produce a "technical solution and its implementation."

Daimler's troubles are the latest in a string of issues to affect diesel-powered vehicles since it emerged in 2015 that German rival Volkswagen had fitted cars with illegal software used to cheat on U.S. diesel emissions tests.

Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche is surrounded by media when leaving the German transport ministry in Berlin Monday, May 28, 2018 where he had be summoned by German transportation Minister Andreas Scheuer after German authorities ruled that the Mercedes-Benz Vito delivery van's diesel emissions controls do not meet legal requirements. (Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP)

In Germany, drivers of older diesel cars face the prospect of driving bans in some cities as part of efforts to combat air pollution. A federal court ruled in February that cities can ban diesels, and Hamburg will become the first to impose such restrictions later this week, banishing them from two streets.

Germany's governing coalition, conscious of the economic significance of the country's auto industry, is keen to avoid driving bans. It has also squabbled over whether diesel cars should be required to undergo

overhauls that go beyond software fixes.

Scheuer says this is unnecessary, but Environment Minister Svenja Schulze argues that software updates won't be enough to comply with European air quality rules.

Schulze suggested in an interview Monday with the daily Die Welt that cars could be overhauled step by step, starting "where there is a threat of driving bans and people are particularly affected by bad air."

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Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche walks into the German transport ministry in Berlin Monday, May 28, 2018 where he had be summoned by German transportation Minister Andreas Scheuer after German authorities ruled that the Mercedes-Benz Vito delivery van's diesel emissions controls do not meet legal requirements. (Kay Nietfeld/dpa via AP)

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Citation: Germany gives Daimler deadline to submit fix for diesel vans (2018, May 28) retrieved 26 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2018-05-germany-daimler-deadline-submit-diesel.html

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