

Nearly 30 mn diesel cars on EU roads over emissions limit: study

19 September 2016



Nitrogen oxide is linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The European Environment Agency said in a 2015 report that nitrogen oxide was responsible for around 72,000 premature deaths in Europe.

Volkswagen Euro 6 cars—cars sold after 2015 in line with the latest EU emission standards—were the least polluting but still belched out nearly twice as much as the official standard.

Volkswagen admitted in September 2015 to installing so-called "defeat devices" in 11 million diesel cars

One year after the Volkswagen "dieseltgate" scandal, nearly 30 million cars on Europe's roads are still way over air pollution limits, campaign group Transport and Environment said in a report Monday.

The German car manufacturer admitted in September 2015 to installing so-called "defeat devices" in 11 million [diesel cars](#) that enabled them to pass [emissions tests](#) they would otherwise have failed.

Greg Archer, the clean vehicle director at the Brussels-based NGO, said "one year after the US caught Volkswagen cheating, all carmakers keep selling grossly polluting diesel cars with the connivance of European governments."

The study found that not one brand complied with current air pollution limits in real-world driving conditions, with Fiat and Suzuki diesel cars spewing out 15 times more nitrogen oxide than the current legal limit.

Volkswagen emissions scandal

VW admitted to fitting 11 million cars worldwide with software to cheat pollution tests

What does the software do?	What happens at other times?	What does NOx do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes diesel engines to detect when a car is undergoing emissions tests Turns full emissions controls for nitrogen oxides (NOx) on only during the test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions controls are turned off, vehicle emits NOx above limit <p>NOx limit 31 mg/km in the US</p> <p>EPA* tests on VW models found emissions up to 40 times the limit</p> <p><small>*Environmental Protection Agency</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to increased asthma attacks, other respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses

Controlling NOx: two key systems

Selective catalytic reduction	Lean NOx trap
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injects urea to exhaust stream to create CO₂ and ammonia Ammonia reacts with NOx to form water and nitrogen <p>eg VW Passat, Touareg</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses alkaline or rare earth oxides to grab nitrogen oxides and form nitrates Injects fuel to clear the system <p>eg VW Jetta, Golf</p>

Source: USEPA/Autonews.com/ICCT/CarThrottle.com © AFP

Volkswagen emissions scandal

Four out of every five Euro 5 standard cars—sold between 2010 and 2014—failed to meet those limits, producing on average three times the ceiling.

The study used emissions tests data from around 230 diesel cars gathered in tests by the British, French and Italian governments and public databases.

France was the country with the most "dirty" cars on the road, with 5.5 million not reaching standards,

followed by Germany on 5.3 million, Britain 4.3 million and Italy 3.1 million.

The NGO urged a recall of all harmful diesel cars and the institution of a European watchdog "to stop EU member states protecting their national champions and to ensure the single market for vehicles operates in the interests of all citizens."

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