

AUTOMOTIVE

BMW joins Volkswagen with an emissions-cheating lawsuit

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BMW's X5 series is thought to be environmentally friendly. Image credit: BMW

By STAFF REPORTS

Despite its continual efforts to move towards an eco-friendly future, German automaker BMW has been hit with a lawsuit for emission cheating.

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The automotive industry has been embracing electric motors more and more, and as a whole has been making strides toward better practices for the environment. For the most part, BMW has been a leader in this movement, but the automaker has allegedly installed devices on its X5 Diesel and 335d to trick emissions tests.

Deceiving consumers and regulators

BMW X5 Diesels, in production from 2009 to 2013, and the BMW 335d from 2009 to 2011 are being cited in a lawsuit against the automaker for emissions well beyond the legal limit.

While the manufacturer uses marketing language that positions these vehicles as eco-friendly, the class-action lawsuit claims BMW used a device that masks harmful emissions on the road.

In the suit filed on March 27 with the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, investigators say the pollution at times reached up to 27 times the legal limit.

The average emission rate was three times the legal limit in highway conditions and 8.5 times within city driving.

Do you own a 2009-2013 **#BMW** X5 Diesel or a 2009-2011 335d?

Find out more & sign up <https://t.co/TRI2QyRM9U>

—**#emissions #emission #diesel #dieselgate** <https://t.co/jkQPZ0RKje>

Hagens Berman (@ClassActionLaw) **March 27, 2018**

Robert Bosch GmbH and Robert Bosch LLC are being named in the lawsuit as collaborators who helped BMW

develop software to mask the emissions during testing.

The lawsuit allows owners and leasers of BMW products affected to claim for compensation.

Law firm Hagens Berman is representing the class action lawsuit.

"At these levels, these cars aren't just dirty they don't meet standards to be legally driven on U.S. streets and no one would have bought these cars if BMW had told the truth," said Steve Berman, managing partner of Hagens Berman, in a statement. "Why did BMW go out of its way to tout the environmental friendliness of these cars?"

"Because it knew that doing so would accelerate sales," he said. "BMW knows that a certain segment of car buyers care about their vehicle's impact on the environment.

"Instead of making good on those promises of protecting the environment, BMW chose to join the likes of Volkswagen and so many others, to build an illegal emissions-cheating system."

The lawsuit against BMW comes at a time where sustainability is crucial, but other automakers have preceded the German automaker with similar illegal activity.

Volkswagen recently pledged itself to the proliferation of electric cars, with plans to have 16 production facilities around the world dedicated solely to the production of battery-powered vehicles by 2022.

To help bolster this initiative, Volkswagen is teaming with a number of battery producers to create high-quality car batteries to power its electric vehicles, which will be forthcoming from many of its luxury brands including Porsche and Audi. But the company's renewed commitment to electric cars and sustainability comes after the high profile scandal in which the group was shown to be knowingly misrepresenting its vehicles' emissions as BMW is alleged to have done ([see more](#)).