

AUTOMOTIVE

Audi CEO arrested for evidence tampering

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Audi's Q5. Image credit: Audi

By STAFF REPORTS

German automaker Audi is under fire for emissions cheating, after its CEO has been arrested.

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The brand's chief executive Rupert Stadler has been arrested in Germany for alleged evidence tampering in regards to Audi's parent company, Volkswagen's emissions cheating. According to Munich prosecutors, Mr. Stadler's home was searched last week in regards to the case.

Cheating emissions

In 2015, the German automaker said that 2.1 million of its diesel-powered cars were outfitted with the software its parent company Volkswagen used to cheat emissions tests.

According to Reuters, 1.42 million of the vehicles sold in Europe include the faulty engine, while 13,000 were sold in the United States. Audi, as part of the Volkswagen Group, had to regain a level of trust from consumers following this news ([see story](#)).

Mr. Stadler is the most senior executive within the group who has been arrested for the cheating allegations.

Audi is currently working to find an interim replacement for the CEO to take hold of operations while he is detained.

"There were clear signs that there was to be an effort to influence people and other suspects," said Stephan Necknig, spokesman at Munich prosecutor's office, in a statement to Bild. "Therefore we issued an immediate arrest warrant explaining the reasons for Stadler's arrest."



Audi CEO Rupert Stadler. Image credit: Autoweek.com

While Mr. Stadler was arrested in Germany, most Volkswagen executives in regards to emissions cheating were arrested in the United States.

Volkswagen was also just fined \$1.2 billion in Germany for the cheating as well.

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