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1. Volkswagen emissions scandal as it happened: Angela Merkel speaks out on rigged US diesel emissions tests for passenger cars;The US has opened a criminal investigation into the company's cheating on emissions tests

# Volkswagen emissions scandal as it happened: Angela Merkel speaks out on rigged US diesel emissions tests for passenger cars; The US has opened a criminal investigation into the company's cheating on emissions tests

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**The**  **INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 254 words

**Byline:** Hazel Sheffield, Doug Bolton

## Body

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Here are the latest updates:

- Volkswagen sets aside (EURO)6.5 billion to win back trust
- Company's US boss admits they 'totally screwed up'
- Shares dive (EURO)15bn after the revelations
- Car emissions figures could be fiddled in Europe
- Volkswagen Q&A: what is the emissions scandal and how should drivers react?

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Volkswagen has said it will set aside (EURO)6.5 billion to cover the cost of a diesel emissions scandal and to "win back the trust of its customers".

Some 11 million cars may be affected by VW's admission that it rigged reports of diesel emissions. The company has been ordered to recall half a million cars in the US.

The US boss of Volkswagen said they had "totally screwed up" emissions testing.

Michael Horn said: "Our company was dishonest with the EPA and the California air resources board, and with all of you, and in my German words, we have totally screwed up."

Volkswagen's reputation as a byword for quality and reliability lies in tatters, according to the German press. The German paper Bundesdeutsche Zeitung said: "'Made in Germany' in the gutter".

Until now, Germany was considered the world leader in clean diesel. Sigmar Gabriel, Germany's vice-chancellor and economic minister, has warned that the country's reputation has been compromised. "We are worried that the justifiably excellent reputation of the German car industry and in particular that of Volkswagen will suffer," Gabriel

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said, according to the Telegraph.

## Classification

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**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (79%)

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