

Ethical Engineering and VW Emissions

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1. What do you think led to the VW engineers choosing to build the emissions defeat device? Are (were) they "bad" or immoral individuals?

They were immoral individuals since they knew the number of emissions the VW was emitting was not environmentally friendly, and yet they sold them to people. The US regulators accused the company of programming about 11 million vehicles worldwide to dishonestly show on official tests that they were emitting small amounts of harmful emissions than they were when driven on the roads (Cavico&Mujtaba, 2016). Regulators in the US also accused the VW Company of cheating on Environmental Standards by programming engines using a management software to detect when tested by regulators.

2. Should individual employees of the VW group responsible for writing and implementing the defeat device be held personally accountable for their actions, And if so, how? Yes, how?

Withdraw all applications for US certifications for its 2016 vehicles of Passat, Golf, and Jetta (Cavico&Mujtaba, 2016). Also, the company will be recalling the cars to adjust them to comply with the US emission standards. The company had to suffer a significant loss since thousands of these vehicles are stuck at US port until the matter is dealt with. There was also the suspension of 9 managers for being involved in the deception. The management positions gave an order to employees to consider the task again, and those incapable of that could leave the company since other people can perform the job

1. Should individuals employees of VW who had knowledge of the defeat device but did not report to the public be held personally accountable, and if so, how?

Cheating and organizational misconduct are a form of unethical behavior and are challenges in society today. People lie when it pays the employees chose to cheat since they knew the profit they were gaining from it but at the expense of the environment (Cavico&Mujtaba, 2016). There was immediate resignation of those in charge of the VW Company since they could not be trusted.

1. Can this type of behavior be prevented in the future, and if so, how?

Yes. In this case, the company CEO blamed the employees for tampering with the vehicle emission software. Therefore, those in charge need to make sure that the employees review the company policies, and they should be shared and discussed freely. Managers should be evaluated on ethical leadership practices, and this will enable them to assess each employee's ethical conduct. The top management should educate employees that acting morally will benefit the company (Gino, 2015).

References

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- Gino, F. (2015). Understanding ordinary unethical behavior: why people who value morality act immorally. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 3, 107–111. DOI: 10.1016/j.cobeha.2015.03.001