

494 Ethics Essay

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What I Would Have Done

The situation was such that however VW had engineered their engines, they were not going to meet federal emissions testing that all vehicles required. Their solution was to create a device that spoofed the testing equipment, allowing their vehicles to bypass testing when they otherwise would not have passed. If I were in the situation, I would try to determine the source of the fuel emission failure. *Why were the engines not efficient enough?* Granted, the issue happened in the first place because the engineers at VW were not given enough time to fix the problem, but at one point the engineers should've stopped and explained that manufacturing a fix for the problem was literally impossible given the constraints that were placed upon them. I would've tried to explain the problem from my point of view (not enough time, too few resources of knowledge on the engines capabilities, determining the source of bad emissions was proving difficult) and requested for more time. Unfortunately, the engineers did what they had to do, but I feel like they didn't put forth too much effort into trying to fix the problem.

Why Did VW Do What They Did?

VW created the spoof device because it was cheaper than troubleshooting their emission-defective engines. It was more cost-effective to develop a device to spoof the tests and risk being found out that it was to fix their engines. By cost-effective I actually mean two things: It was cheaper in terms of money but it was also cheaper in terms of time. The company required the engineers to produce the vehicles by a certain date, and trying to fix the engines would've cost more time than they had available.