Volkswagen Emission Test Scandal

Student’s Name:

Institution Affiliation:

Volkswagen Emission Test Scandal

In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States discovered the violation of Clear Air Act by more than fifty thousand diesel motor vehicles from Volkswagen Company. The Clean Air Act is a federal policy responsible for controlling the emission of pollutants into the air. The act aims at setting and achieving the air quality standards in all states to tackle public health and welfare hazards that may result from air pollution. The vehicles had defeat devices, which gave false federal emission test results. The software worked by detecting when motor vehicles were undertaking the tests and turning on full emission controls. The agency found that the company equipped the vehicles with those devices from 2009 to 2015. They violated the agency’s standards since they emitted more population than the allowed level. Clean Air Act states in section 112 that Environmental Protection Agency should set the maximum level of air pollutants that vehicles can emit.

Emissions from Volkswagen vehicles exceeded these levels, thus, violating the act’s standards. Nitrogen oxides were the major pollutants. The Department of Justice sued the company for violation of the act in 2016 and it pleaded guilty. The court’s ruling obligated the company to compensate all consumers whose vehicles had the device. More than sixty thousand German consumers took their cases to court, seeking the company to compensate them. The company admitted that they equipped over eleven million vehicles with the device across the world. The importance of the ruling was that it paved way for other pending cases among German consumers against Volkswagen. On the other hand, Volkswagen stated that it would pay the consumers less than what the court judgment would give them. The company now aims at winning the trust of its consumers back.