

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro  
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**Subject:** EPA sues Fiat Chrysler over emissions cheating allegations

By Alex Guillén

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The Justice Department and EPA today sued Fiat Chrysler, contending the automaker sold almost 104,000 diesel vehicles equipped with software designed to cheat on emissions testing, threatening the Italian-owned company with billions of dollars in fines.

The agencies first went public with their allegations in January, when Obama-era officials demand Fiat Chrysler explain whether its "auxiliary emission control devices" were acting as defeat devices on Ram 1500 and Jeep Grand Cherokee models.

Those defeat devices, consisting of at least eight software features that were undisclosed to EPA during the company's certification process, boost performance under real-world driving conditions by increasing nitrogen oxide emissions, according to DOJ.

Fiat Chrysler faces fines of \$37,500 to \$45,268 per vehicle sold, along with further penalties for each undisclosed software device and for reporting violations, which could add up to billions of dollars.

Fiat last week said it was in talks with the DOJ to settle the allegations, though today's filing does not indicate the parties have reached a deal. DOJ said in a release the talks continued but that timing was unclear.

Fiat on Friday announced it has taken a first step toward getting its 2017 model year diesel vehicles approved by EPA and the California Air Resources Board, and will install updated emissions software in 2014-2016 vehicles.

The Fiat allegations come after Volkswagen settled its own emissions cheating scandal for a record \$4.3 billion.

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