

# Volkswagen owners can check database to see if their car is affected

Nathan Bomey USA TODAY October 17, 2015



(Photo: File photo by David McNew, Getty Images)

U.S. owners of Volkswagen cars can now determine whether their vehicle is fitted with the manipulative software that has spawned the automaker's emissions crisis.

Volkswagen said Friday that owners can input their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into an online database to ascertain the status of their vehicles.

The move comes as Volkswagen is expected to order an official recall for the nearly 500,000 U.S. diesel cars involved in the scandal. The two-liter, four-cylinder diesel cars affected by the crisis include models ranging from 2009 to 2015.

To find the VIN, customers can reference their owner's manual. The database is available at [VWdieselinfo.com](http://VWdieselinfo.com).

Although a recall is expected, repairs could take years. Older models will be particularly difficult to fix because they will require hardware and software changes.

Volkswagen has yet to propose an official fix to U.S. regulators.

The software causes vehicles to emit nitrogen oxide — which can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma — at rates of up to 40 times U.S. standards. But in regulatory tests, the software makes the vehicles appear compliant.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has said it expects to punish Volkswagen, which is also facing a criminal investigation and many other probes.

On Friday, Volkswagen also said that it was hiring a Daimler executive to lead a new post devoted to integrity and legal affairs. Christine Hohmann-Dennhardt will become a board member for integrity and legal affairs as of Jan. 1.

She has been in an identical role at Daimler, which agreed to terminate her contract early at Volkswagen's request. She held several positions in Germany's judicial system before taking the Daimler job.