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Largest Civil Penalty Ever Under U.S. Customs Laws Assessed in Vehicle Emissions Case (From Sandler Travis)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports that a major automaker has agreed to pay more than \$4.3 billion to settle criminal and civil charges stemming from a scheme to cheat U.S. automobile emissions tests. The deal includes a \$2.8 billion criminal penalty and a \$1.45 billion civil penalty to resolve customs fraud, environmental, and financial claims, marking what CBP said is the largest civil penalty ever issued or collected under U.S. customs laws.

According to a CBP press release, the company violated criminal and civil customs laws by knowingly submitting materially false statements to CBP and omitting material information over multiple years with the intent of deceiving or misleading CBP concerning the admissibility of vehicles into the U.S. Specifically, the company falsely represented to CBP at the time of importation that nearly 590,000 imported vehicles complied with all applicable environmental laws while knowing those representations to be untrue. For more info, please go to

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-customs-civil-penalty-auto-emissions-011317.html>

Ed. note: The company is obviously Volkswagen.

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