

9 tricks for misleading fuel consumption claims

The fuel consumption and CO2 emissions tests that car manufacturers use is not fit for modern day conditions and is based on an outdated test cycle and procedure. Altroconsumo (Italian consumer organisation and BEUC member), performed the same tests that car manufacturers are required to perform under EU law.

For both the Panda 1.2 and the Golf 1.6 TDI, the declared values advertised by both manufacturers indicate a far better level of performance than what was found in Altroconsumo's investigation. This was found to be the case even when Altroconsumo pushed the flexibilities of the test to the very limit. Even taking into account the large margin of flexibility permitted by the law, the fuel consumption of the Fiat Panda tested by Altroconsumo was more than 18% higher, while the Volkswagen Golf was more than 50% higher.



IN THE TEST



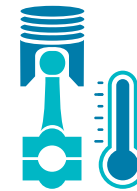
TRICK no.1)
REDUCING THE WEIGHT OF THE VEHICLE
When tested under a lower weight class, consumption fell by up to 4.4%

IN THE TEST



TRICK no.2)
DRIVING TECHNIQUE
Through adjusting acceleration, breaking etc. consumption reduced by up to 3%

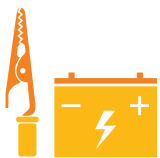
IN THE TEST



TRICK no.3)
TEST TEMPERATURE
Different conditions can lead to 2.3% reduction in fuel consumption



TRICK no.5)
SPECIAL LUBRICANTS
Using special lubricants, that are not normally used by motorists



TRICK no.6)
DISCONNECTING THE ALTERNATOR
Avoiding additional power by removing the alternator will reduce fuel consumption



TRICK no.7)
TAPING UP THE CAR
To minimize air resistance, car parts are sealed with tape

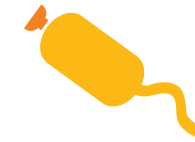


TRICK no.8)
BETTER BREAKING
Reducing the friction between the car's brake pads and discs

IN THE TEST



TRICK no.4)
TYRE PRESSURE
At the higher pressure setting the reduction of fuel consumption can be as much as 2.9%



TRICK no.9)
IMPROVING THE TEST RESULTS
Test flexibilities allow manufacturers to lower fuel consumption scores by 4%

