

Article

Assessment of a Euro VI Step E Heavy-Duty Vehicle's Aftertreatment System

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Abstract: The latest generation of heavy-duty vehicles (Euro VI step E) have to respect low emission limits both in the laboratory and on the road. The most challenging pollutants for diesel vehicles are NO_x and particles; nevertheless, NH₃ and N₂O need attention. In this study, we measured regulated and unregulated pollutants of a Euro VI step E Diesel vehicle. Samples were taken downstream of (i) the engine, (ii) the Diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) and catalyzed Diesel particulate filter (cDPF), and (iii) the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) unit for NO_x with an ammonia slip catalyst (ASC). In addition to typical laboratory and real-world cycles, various challenging tests were conducted (urban driving with low payload, high-speed full-load driving, and idling) at 23 °C and 5 °C. The results showed high efficiencies of the DOC, DPF, and SCR under most testing conditions. Cold start cycles resulted in high NO_x emissions, while high-temperature cycles resulted in high particle emissions. The main message of this study is that further improvements are necessary, also considering possible reductions in the emission limits in future EU regulations.

Keywords: heavy-duty emissions; DOC; DPF; SCR; NH₃; N₂O; passive regeneration; ISC; idling; cold start



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1. Introduction

Air pollution is the largest environmental health risk in Europe. Road transport is one of the principal sources, responsible for approximately 40% of NO_x, 20% of CO, and 10% of particulate matter (PM) emissions [1]. In addition to its impact on air quality and public health, the transport sector produced a quarter of EU's greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport representing the greatest share (72% in 2019). Within on-road diesel vehicles, heavy-duty vehicles are a significant contributor to exhaust emissions and health effects [2,3].

Emissions of heavy-duty vehicles are regulated with a test on an engine dynamometer. A big step in controlling the emissions of vehicles under actual operating conditions was the introduction of the on-road tests with portable emissions measurement systems [4]. Many studies have been conducted with vehicles fulfilling the latest standards (e.g., Euro VI or China VI) [5–11]. Some have demonstrated significant reductions compared to previous technologies [12–15]. Some studies have reported that differences can be found between engine-type-approval and actual application of the vehicle, but the regulatory test procedure has not always been followed at the on-road tests [16–18]. Some researchers have argued that the exclusion of cold start emissions from the evaluation resulted in significant underestimation of the total emissions [14,19]. In other cases, environmental conditions differing from those in the laboratory (e.g., low ambient temperatures) [20] or undetected failures [21] or tampering [22] can result in high emissions. To address these topics, in Europe, the last regulatory step (Euro VI, step E applicable since 2021) added cold start emissions during the on-road in-service conformity (ISC) evaluation and

lowered the lower power threshold to 10% (from 20%). Furthermore, particulate emission measurements on the road were added. In Europe, a proposal for the next regulatory step is under discussion [23]. In addition to wider environmental conditions and lower emission limits, additional pollutants may be added. Some studies have presented demonstrator vehicles with extremely low emissions under a wide range of conditions [24–26]. However, the literature on the currently unregulated pollutants is limited [27].

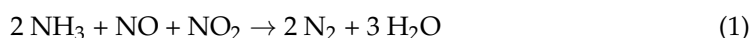
The aim of this study was to measure the emissions of a Euro VI step E vehicle. The vehicle was equipped with, in this order, a Diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC), a catalyzed Diesel particulate filter (cDPF), a selective catalytic reduction unit (SCR) for NO_x, and an ammonia slip catalyst (ASC). Measurements at engine out and downstream of the aftertreatment devices permitted us to assess the efficiency of the aftertreatment devices. In addition to the world harmonized vehicle cycle (WHVC) and real-world cycle (RWC), some challenging situations were examined (at 23 °C): long idling, driving at maximum load, urban driving with low payload, cold start, and low ambient temperature (5 °C). Details can be found in the Materials and Methods section.

2. Results

2.1. WHVC (World Harmonized Vehicle Cycle)

Figure 1 (lower panel) plots the NO_x emissions over a cold start WHVC at 23 °C, separately for the three sampling positions: (1) engine out (black line), (2) DOC + cDPF out (blue lines), and (3) SCR + ASC out (tailpipe) (red lines). The middle panel gives the NH₃ and N₂O concentrations at the tailpipe (position 3) and the NO/NO_x ratio for the two positions 2 and 3. The upper panel plots the speed profile, the exhaust gas temperatures at the DOC inlet and the SCR inlet, and the H₂O concentration. Note that temperatures were measured at the three sampling positions stated above and we assumed that, given the closed-coupled configuration, differences between engine out and DOC in or DOC out and SCR in were minor. The pre-conditioning the day before was a high-load steady driving to passively regenerate the cDPF.

Comparing the engine out and DOC + cDPF out emissions, the total NO_x were practically the same. Small differences can be attributed to limited NO_x reduction in the DOC [28,29]. At the engine out position, there was no information regarding the NO and NO₂ ratio, but typically, the majority is NO [28]. At the DPF outlet, the NO₂ to NO_x ratio was, on average, around 0.4 (middle panel), in agreement with other studies of similar vehicle technologies [30]. Such a high ratio is necessary for the passive regeneration of soot in the DPF at relatively low temperatures and later for higher NO_x conversion efficiency through the Fast-SCR reaction on the SCR catalyst (Equation (1)) [28,31–33].



Comparing the DOC + cDPF and SCR + ASC outlet emissions, a significant decrease in the NO_x emissions started at approximately 500 s. The exhaust gas temperature at the SCR inlet was around 200 °C, a temperature considered safe for urea injection that can, on the one hand, promote a fast urea decomposition and, on the other, avoid unwanted deposition of ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃) [29,32,34].

It is worth mentioning that during the first 60 s, no NO_x emissions were measured at the SCR + ASC outlet position. This has been mentioned in the literature under both laboratory [35,36] or vehicle conditions [25,26] and has been attributed to NO_x adsorption at the SCR catalyst with dry exhaust [37,38], taking place due to condensation on the cold surfaces [39]. As soon as water reached the SCR catalyst, due to its exothermic condensation within zeolite pores, a significant spike of NO_x associated with the thermal decomposition of adsorbed species, such as nitrates, previously stored on the catalyst was released. Interestingly, the peak was composed of both NO₂ and NO at variance with what was expected from nitrates decomposition. This has been explained by the presence of CO and unburned hydrocarbons in the exhaust gas that can reduce NO₂ to NO on the SCR catalyst in these conditions [38].

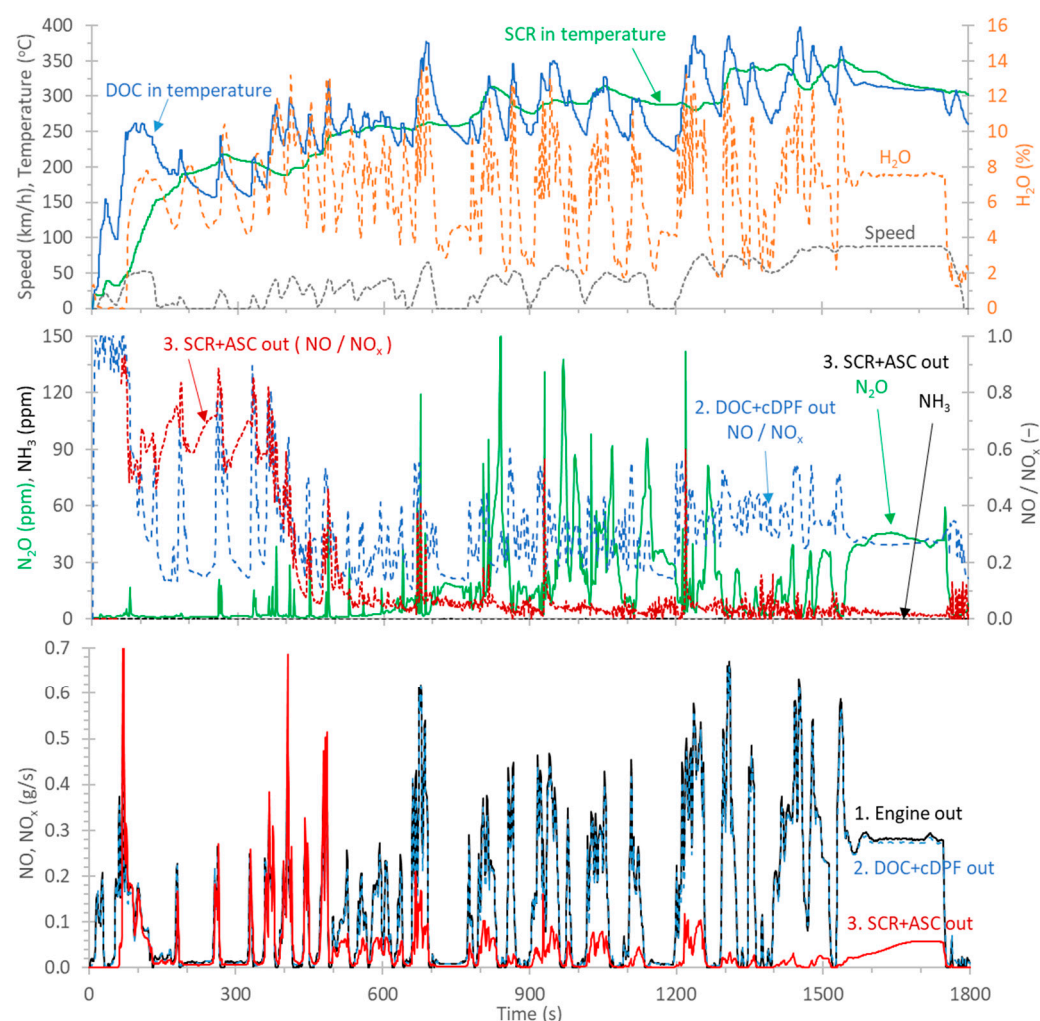
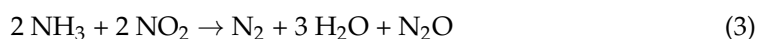
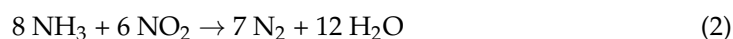


Figure 1. Cold start world harmonized vehicle cycle (WHVC) at 23 °C. The upper panel plots the speed profile, the temperatures at the inlet of the DOC and the SCR, and the H₂O concentration in the exhaust gas. The middle panel plots NH₃ and N₂O at position 3, and the NO/NO_x ratios for positions 2 and 3. The lower panel plots the NO_x emissions (continuous lines) at the three sampling locations. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; SCR = selective catalytic reduction.

In the last part of the cycle, with almost constant-speed driving, SCR outlet NO_x gradually increased. A few points are worth noting. First, in these conditions, the DOC was converting most of the NO_x to NO₂, with a NO₂/NO_x ratio exceeding 0.7 (see middle panel, NO/NO_x is 0.3). Due to our pre-conditioning protocol (long high-load test the day before), there was not much soot in the DPF to consume NO₂. In such a situation, all NO was effectively converted through the Fast SCR reaction (Equation (1)), which consumes equimolar amounts of NO and NO₂. However, the remaining NO₂ could be converted through two competing reactions, as long as NH₃ was available:



At these temperatures (approximately 300 °C, upper panel) in an environment with excess NO₂, it is not uncommon to see significant production of N₂O (Equation (3)), as we indeed also measured here (approximately 40 ppm, middle panel) [40,41]. NH₃ was completely consumed, indicating that, probably in this situation, injection was not sufficient

to completely convert the available NO_x , even through the less efficient NO_2 SCR pathway (Equation (2)).

Figure 2 plots the SPN emissions for the same cold start WHVC of Figure 1. The color code is the same: black lines for position 1 (engine out), blue lines for position 2 (DOC + cDPF out), and red lines for position 3 (SCR + ASC out). Dotted lines indicate the >23 nm (SPN_{23}) emissions, while continuous lines indicate >10 nm (SPN_{10}).

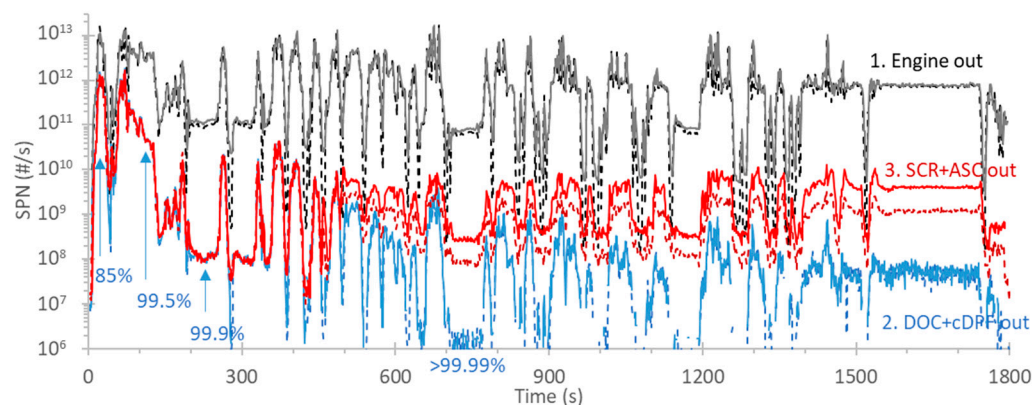


Figure 2. Cold start world harmonized vehicle cycle (WHVC) at 23 °C. The different colors represent different sampling locations. Continuous lines indicate solid particle numbers >10 nm, SPN_{10} ; dotted lines indicate >23 nm, SPN_{23} , emissions. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; SCR = selective catalytic reduction.

The engine out emission levels were high (black lines), while the DPF out emissions (blue emissions) were practically zero, except during cold start. Nevertheless, even during cold start, the DPF filtration efficiency was 85% (first seconds) to 99.5% (first minutes). It reached $>99.9\%$ after four minutes, in agreement with other studies [20]. The SPN_{23} and SPN_{10} lines were on top of each other, meaning that there were no particles <23 nm and that they were mainly soot particles. The high cold start emissions were due to the “empty” DPF at the beginning of the test (it should be reminded that the preconditioning the day before consisted of a long high-load test in order to passively regenerate the filter).

The SCR + ASC out (and tailpipe) emissions followed the same trend as with the DPF out emissions during the first minutes, but then they remained at a higher level after approximately 500 s. Furthermore, the SPN_{23} and SPN_{10} lines had large differences after the first minutes, indicating the presence of sub-23 nm particles. The appearance of these particles coincided with the time that NO_x were reduced (and the exhaust gas temperature at the inlet of the SCR was around 200 °C). NO_x reduction occurred at the same time there was a sharp drop in the temperature close to the tip of the urea injector, supporting the idea that urea started to be injected (there were no other data from the electronic control unit (ECU) to confirm this). Thus, it can be assumed that the formed particles were urea-related. This finding is in agreement with the literature, which reports the formation of particles due to urea injection in the SCR [42].

2.2. Idling

Figure 3 summarizes the idling test results. The cycle preceding the “idling” test was the real-world cycle (RWC), which finished with 50 min of motorway driving. The “idling” test consisted of warmup driving at 50 km/h and 5 min of urban driving, and then the engine was left to idle for the rest of the test. The temperature at the inlet of the SCR was around 250 °C at the end of the driving and at the beginning of idling (grey line) and gradually decreased during the idling period. The tailpipe NO_x (green line, position SCR + ASC out) were relatively low during the driving and very low when the idling started (<35 ppm). They remained low for 15 min (approximately until a time of 1300 s) and then they gradually started increasing, approaching the engine out levels at

the end of the test. The NO_x spikes coincided with the exhaust flow and CO_2 variations, indicating that they originated from the engine, such as exhaust gas re-circulation, and not the aftertreatment systems.

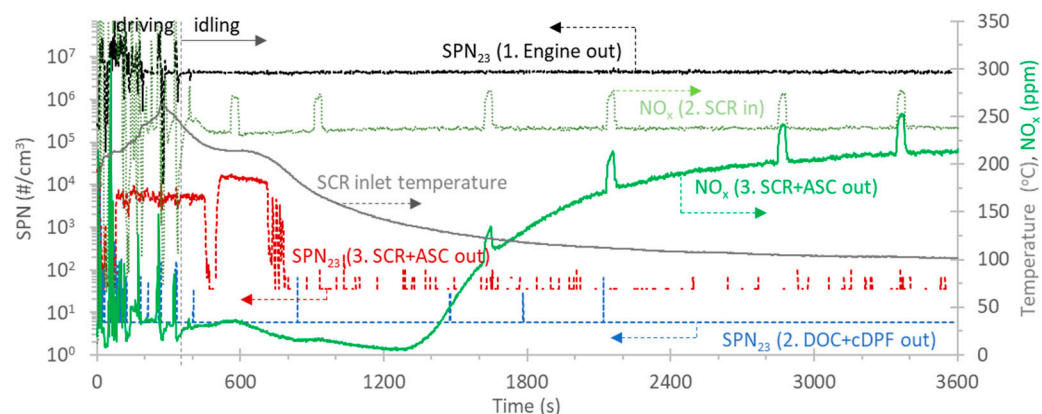


Figure 3. Idling test. The different colors represent different sampling locations. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; SPN = solid particle number.

Although there is no information regarding the urea injection, it can be assumed that urea was injected until a time of 700 s, because the particles downstream of the SCR were elevated compared to the upstream position (compare red and blue lines). As with the test in the previous section, this time also coincided with a temperature at the inlet of the SCR of at least 200 °C. The NO_x emissions without urea injection from a time of 800 s remained low because the NO_x reduction continued with the stored NH_3 in the SCR. This has been shown and discussed in the literature [25]. The amount of stored NH_3 available depends, among other things, on SCR volume and the previous operation. Another idling test (not shown) that followed a WHVC, instead of motorway driving as in Figure 3, maintained low NO_x emissions for 20 min.

This test, in combination with previous work [25], shows a simple test that can be used to search for vehicles with malfunctioning SCR during the periodic technical inspection (PTI). For some period of time, the NO_x emissions remained at low levels, in the presence of stored NH_3 , which is an indication that urea was injected before the test and consequently indicates a working SCR.

The same test can be used to assess the DPF status of the vehicle during PTI. Figure 3 plots the SPN_{23} emissions at engine out, DOC + cDPF out, and SCR + ASC out positions. Although the DOC + cDPF out concentrations were practically zero, the tailpipe concentrations (SCR + ASC out) were zero (background of the instrument) only when no urea was injected (time after 700 s). When urea was injected, the concentration was 0.5×10^4 to 1.4×10^4 #/cm³ (for SPN_{10} : 1.2×10^4 to 2.5×10^4 #/cm³). The concentrations were well below solid particle number (SPN) PTI limits that will be employed for light-duty vehicles in different European countries; 2.5×10^5 #/cm³ in Germany and 1×10^6 #/cm³ in Netherlands and Belgium [43]. The engine out emissions were 4.5×10^6 #/cm³.

2.3. Maximum Load (Passive Regeneration)

Figure 4 plots a maximum load test, typically performed at the end of the day to precondition the aftertreatment devices for the next day's cold start test. This test was selected in order to passively regenerate the cDPF and reach the same cDPF soot load (around 10%, as indicated by the vehicle) at the end of every day.

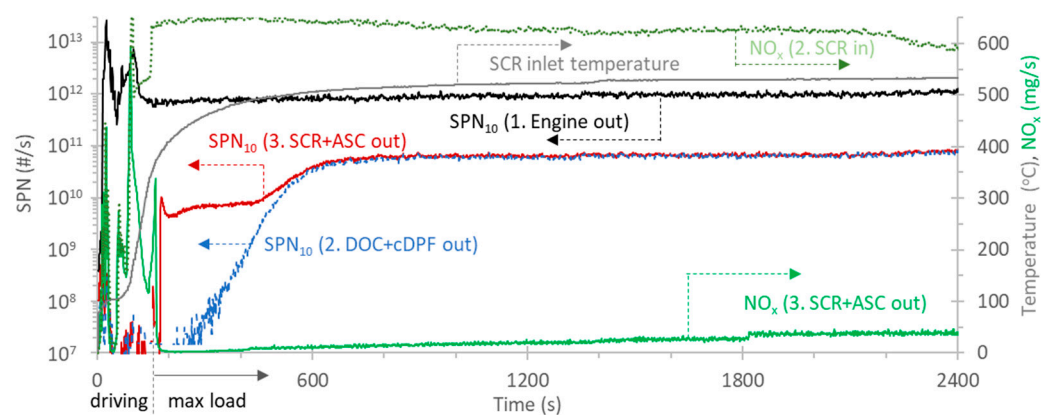


Figure 4. Maximum load test. The different colors represent different sampling locations. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; SPN = solid particle number.

The driver accelerated the vehicle at 80 km/h, then the dynamometer was set to an 80 km/h constant-speed mode, and the driver was fully pressing the accelerator pedal (starting at approximately 150 s). The vehicle speed remained at 80 km/h, but the load was the maximum available (indicated as “max load” in the figure).

The NO_x emissions at the inlet and outlet of the SCR were at the same levels for the first minutes of driving (green lines). When the exhaust gas temperature at the SCR exceeded 200 °C, the NO_x emissions at the outlet of the SCR dropped to very low levels. After 400 s, the NO_x emissions started to gradually increase (but remained at low levels). The increase was mainly due to NO (from 15 ppm to 72 ppm). NO_2 remained practically at the same levels (from 6 ppm to 11 ppm). At this high exhaust gas temperature (500 °C), the NO to NO_2 conversion was low due to the thermodynamic equilibrium. It is interesting to notice that these conditions of high flowrate and high temperature are compatible with the onset of mass transfer limitations [44]. Nevertheless, the NO_x reduction remained at high levels (94.3% from 97.8%).

The engine out SPN_{10} emissions were around 10^{12} #/s (black line). They were at very low levels at the outlet of the DOC + cDPF (blue line) and the SCR + ASC outlet (tailpipe) (red line) during the first minutes. When the vehicle started to inject urea, particles were formed (time 200–400 s). Due to the high exhaust gas temperature, the filter started regenerating passively. As the soot was being oxidized, the filtration efficiency was dropping and more particles started appearing downstream of the cDPF. At a time around 650 s, an equilibrium was reached. The filtration efficiency from that point of time was around 93%.

2.4. NO_x Conversions

Figure 5a presents the NO to NO_x ratios measured downstream of the DOC + cDPF (position 2) for a few constant speeds and the max load test (at 80 km/h) as a function of the exhaust gas temperature at the inlet of the DOC. The max load and high speed points lay on the equilibrium curve, which indicate the thermodynamic limitation for higher conversions. The other points lay on a typical NO to NO_2 conversion curve for the Pt catalyst [31,45]. However, as the DOC formulation was unknown, the Pt curve is mainly an aid to the eye, rather than the expected performance of the catalyst.

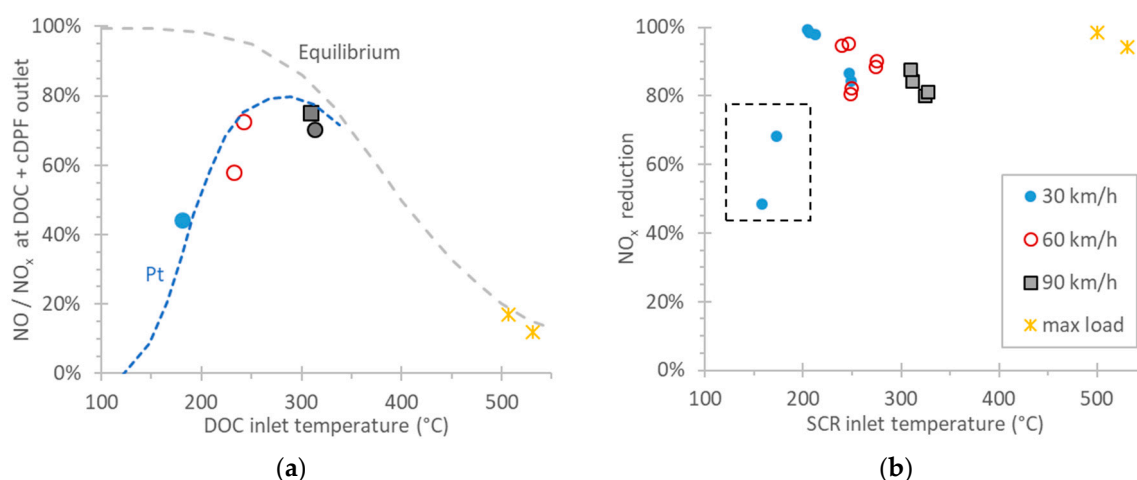


Figure 5. NO_x conversions in the aftertreatment device: (a) NO to NO_x ratio at the outlet of the DOC + cDPF as a function of the exhaust gas temperature in the DOC inlet. Circles are the measured data. The blue dotted line is a typical curve for the Pt catalyst and the grey dashed line is the equilibrium; (b) NO_x reduction efficiency in the SCR + ASC for NO_x as a function of the exhaust gas temperature in the SCR inlet. The points in the square are tests after a warm start (coolant temperature 55 °C). DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; SCR = selective catalytic reduction.

Figure 5b presents the NO_x conversion (i.e., reduction to N₂) in the SCR + ASC (position 3) as a function of the SCR inlet temperature. The conversions were >80%, with the exception of a few points that, instead of hot (coolant temperature > 70 °C), were performed with a warm engine (coolant temperature around 55 °C), and the exhaust gas temperature at the inlet of the SCR was <200 °C. The stored NH₃ also played a very important role contributing to the final NO_x reduction, particularly for the points where no urea was injected, due to low exhaust gas temperature. Similar efficiencies have been reported in the literature [46].

2.5. Emission Factors

The following figures present the emission factors of various cycles at different locations: position 1 (engine out, grey bars), position 2 (DOC + cDPF out, blue bars), and position 3 (SCR + ASC out, tailpipe, red bars). The cycles were the WHVC, the urban, the rural, and the motorway parts of a real-world cycle (RWC), an urban cycle with a low payload, and the max load test. All tests were conducted at around 23 °C, except a cold start WHVC at 5 °C. Cold start means that the coolant (and oil) temperature was the same as the ambient temperature (5 °C or 23 °C). Hot start means the coolant (and oil) temperature was >70 °C.

Figure 6 plots the NO_x emissions and, when the information was available, the NO and NO₂ splitting. The engine out and DOC + cDPF out emissions were almost the same, ranging from 7 to 11 g/kWh. The SCR + ASC out (tailpipe) emissions were 55–97% lower. The lower percentages and higher absolute levels were noted for the cold start tests, where no urea injection could take place until the exhaust gas temperature had reached approximately 200 °C. For the cold start tests, the NO_x emissions were 1.7–3.2 g/kWh. The results are higher than other Euro VI or China VI vehicles, having NO_x emissions <1 g/kWh [6,8,10,13,14,18], highlighting the challenges of cold start, urban cycles, and lower ambient temperatures of our tests.

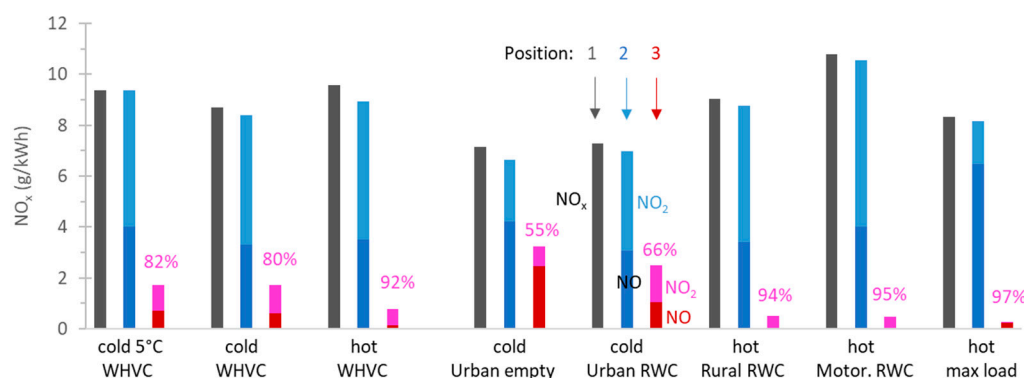


Figure 6. NO_x emission factors for various cycles at different sampling positions of the aftertreatment system. When available, NO and NO₂ are given with different color shading. Position 1 (engine out, grey bars); position 2 (DOC + cDPF out, blue bars); position 3 (SCR + ASC out, tailpipe, red bars). Percentages give emissions reductions compared to the previous position. Tests at 23 °C, except “cold 5 °C WHVC”, and 66% of maximum payload, except “Urban empty” (9%). “Cold” and “hot” refer to the coolant temperature at engine cranking, i.e., at ambient temperature or >70 °C, respectively. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; RWC = real-world cycle; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

Figure 7 plots the CO emissions. The highest engine out emissions were during cold start cycles. The DOC and the catalyzed DPF oxidized most of the CO: from 2.5 to 5.0 g/kWh (position 1) to <1 g/kWh (position 2), with the exception of the cold start urban cycle (around 2.5 g/kWh). The efficiency for CO ranged from 46 to 100%. The SCR reduced CO by 14–38% relative to the DOC + cDPF position (position 3). This reduction is likely due to the conversion of an equimolar amount of NO₂ to NO, as also suggested by previous results discussed in Figure 1. The results are in agreement with other studies with Euro VI or China VI vehicles (around 1 g/kWh) [10,13] or lower [6,8].

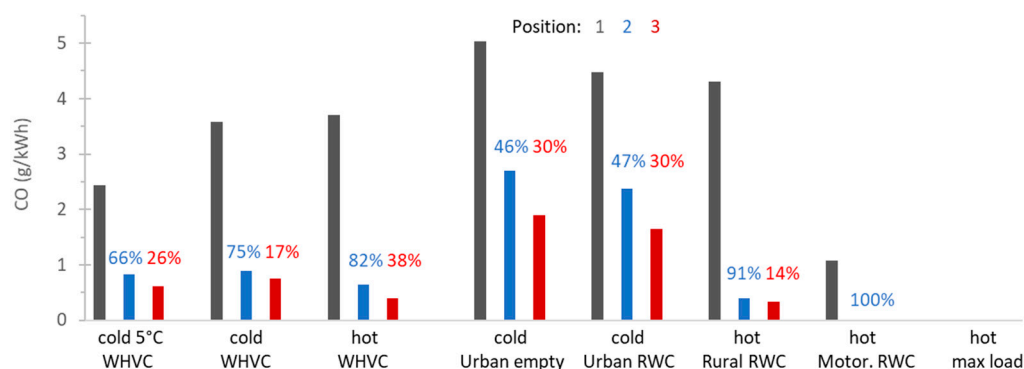


Figure 7. CO emission factors for various cycles at different sampling positions of the aftertreatment system. Position 1 (engine out, grey bars); position 2 (DOC + cDPF out, blue bars); position 3 (SCR + ASC out, tailpipe, red bars). Percentages give emissions reductions compared to the previous position. Tests at 23 °C, except “cold 5 °C WHVC”, and 66% of maximum payload, except “Urban empty” (9%). “Cold” and “hot” refer to the coolant temperature at engine cranking, i.e., at ambient temperature or >70 °C, respectively. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; RWC = real-world cycle; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

Figure 8 plots the SPN emissions. Both SPN₂₃ and SPN₁₀ are given for all three positions, but the difference is very small for the engine out (position 1) and DOC + cDPF out (position 2) and is, thus, indistinguishable in the plot. The cDPF efficiency was >98%

(for cold start cycles), reaching almost 100% for hot start cycles. The reason for the relatively lower filtration efficiency of the cold start cycles is that the tests started with an “empty” cDPF and some time was necessary to fill the cDPF with some soot. The SCR operation resulted in an increase in the emissions of approximately 1×10^{11} #/kWh (position 3), as determined by the hot cycles where the DPF out emissions were very low. These results are in agreement with other studies [10,20,47,48].

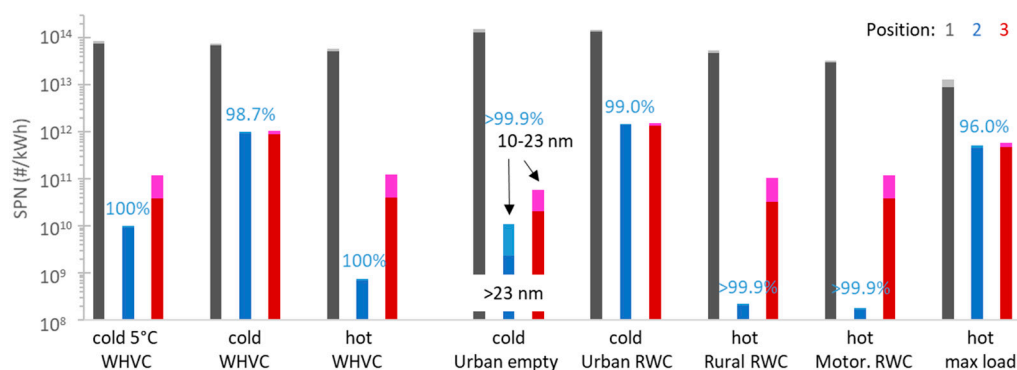


Figure 8. Solid particle number (SPN) emission factors for various cycles at different sampling positions of the aftertreatment system. SPN₂₃ and SPN₁₀ are given with different color shading. Position 1 (engine out, grey bars); position 2 (DOC + cDPF out, blue bars); position 3 (SCR + ASC out, tailpipe, red bars). Percentages give emissions reductions compared to the previous position. Tests at 23 °C, except “cold 5 °C WHVC”, and 66% of maximum payload, except “Urban empty” (9%). “Cold” and “hot” refer to the coolant temperature at engine cranking, i.e., at ambient temperature or >70 °C, respectively. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; RWC = real world cycle; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

Table 1 presents the tailpipe greenhouse gases emissions of the vehicle for various test cycles. It should be noted that in addition to promoting global warming, N₂O is a pollutant currently considered as the most important Ozone-Depleting Substance [49]. In general, N₂O was elevated (50–200 mg/kWh). The emissions of cold start and hot start WHVC were similar. N₂O is formed as a by-product of (i) the DOC, aiming to increase the NO₂ to NO_x fraction; (ii) the SCR via formation of ammonium-nitrate-like surface species and their subsequent decomposition (lower temperatures) or via ammonia oxidation (higher temperatures); (iii) the ASC, via unselective oxidation of unreacted NH₃ [29]. The tailpipe NH₃ was practically close to zero for all conditions and, thus, no emissions were reported.

Table 1. Emissions of greenhouse gases for the various cycles (measured at the tailpipe with an FTIR). All tests at around 23 °C, unless otherwise specified.

Pollutant	WHVC Cold 5 °C	WHVC Cold	WHVC Hot	Urban Cold	Urban RWC Cold	Rural RWC Hot	Motor RWC Hot	Max Load Hot
CO ₂ (g/kWh)	710.3	654.4	649.7	716.4	727.9	650.1	640.8	614.7
N ₂ O (mg/kWh)	82.2	161.3	176.3	52.8	91.8	196.4	196.3	63.9
CH ₄ (mg/kWh)	4.9	3.0	2.9	13.0	6.6	1.9	1.0	0.1

FTIR = Fourier transform infrared; RWC = real-world cycle; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

2.6. Euro VI and Future

In order to put the results into perspective, the emissions were compared with the Euro VI emission limits. The type-approval of an engine was performed in the engine dynamometer with the world harmonized transient cycle (WHTC). The cycle was conducted twice, first with a cold engine (i.e., at ambient temperature) and after 10 min of soaking with a hot engine. The results were weighted 14% and 86%, respectively. Even though not

according to the regulation, we used the cold and hot WHVCs on the chassis dynamometer to calculate the emissions (Table 2). The emissions were well below the limits for CO and SPN₂₃, but not for NO_x, which were double.

Table 2. Emission factors of type-approval-like WHVC of the vehicle of our study and the respective limits in the regulation for WHTC and engine dynamometer testing.

Pollutant	Cold	Hot	Weighted ¹	Limit
NO _x (g/kWh)	1.71	0.79	0.92	0.46
CO (g/kWh)	0.75	0.40	0.45	4.00
SPN ₂₃ × 10 ¹¹ (#/kWh)	8.94	0.40	1.59	6.00

¹ Applying 14% for the cold start and 86% for hot start cycle. SPN = solid particle number; WHTC = world harmonized transient cycle; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

Euro VI regulation includes an in-service conformity (ISC) test on the road with a portable emissions measurement system (PEMS). The evaluation was performed with the moving window methodology. The cold part is considered the maximum window from the windows after the coolant has exceeded 30 °C and has reached 70 °C (but no later than 10 min). The hot part is the 90th percentile of the windows after the coolant has reached 70 °C. The results of this methodology are summarized in Table 3 for the real-world cycle (RWC), which had similarities with the in-service conformity (ISC) requirements. The results were similar to the WHVC results: they were below the limits for CO and SPN₂₃, but above for NO_x.

Table 3. Conformity factors of the real-world cycle (RWC) according to the Euro VI step E methodology for in-service conformity (ISC)-like testing.

Pollutant	Cold	Hot (90th)	Weighted ¹	On-Road ²
NO _x (-)	3.56	1.87	2.11	1.50
CO (-)	0.31	0.21	0.22	1.50
SPN ₂₃ × 10 ¹¹ (-)	0.84	0.07	0.18	1.63

¹ Applying 14% to the 100th% of the cold windows and 86% to the 90th% of the hot windows. ² For on-road testing, a conformity factor of 1.50 applies for the gaseous pollutants and 1.63 for SPN₂₃.

The methodology that has been suggested for the post-Euro VI regulation is slightly different [50]: there are two limits, one for the 100th percentile and one for the 90th percentile and all the windows are included in one single analysis. The results are presented in Table 4, along with ranges of possible limits that could be achieved by future diesel-fueled technologies (with or without pre-heating).

Table 4. Emission factors of the real-world cycle (RWC) and the respective limits ranges that have been suggested for the future regulation [50]. Note that on-road testing will not include any conformity factors.

Pollutant	100th	Limit 100th	90th	Limit 90th
NO _x (g/kWh)	1.67	0.18–0.35	1.02	0.09
CO (g/kWh)	1.13	1.5–3.5	1.08	0.20
SPN ₁₀ × 10 ¹¹ (#/kWh) ¹	8.7	5.0	1.3	1.0
N ₂ O (g/kWh)	0.22	0.16	0.21	0.06

¹ The proposal includes particles from 10 nm.

The results of the present study clearly demonstrated the need for further improvements of the aftertreatment devices for upcoming regulations with lower emission limits. For NO_x, various solutions have been presented, requiring a closed coupled SCR in order to address the cold start NO_x emissions [25,26]. Increased urea dosing might also be required, which will also lead to high particle number emissions. A second DPF at the end of the

tailpipe seems a viable solution, as it was recently demonstrated [51,52]. The increased N_2O emissions from the DOC, SCR, and ASC need optimization of the catalyst materials and formulations, system architecture, and the operating strategies, as its subsequent removal is challenging [53,54].

3. Materials and Methods

The test vehicle was a N3 category truck, compliant with the Euro VI step E regulation (registration December 2021). The diesel engine was 12.8 L with 375 kW power. The aftertreatment configuration (Figure 9) consisted of a Diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC), a $12'' \times 12''$ catalyzed Diesel particulate filter (cDPF), and a double selective catalytic reduction (SCR) for NO_x with an ammonia slip catalyst (ASC). All systems were packed together in a box.

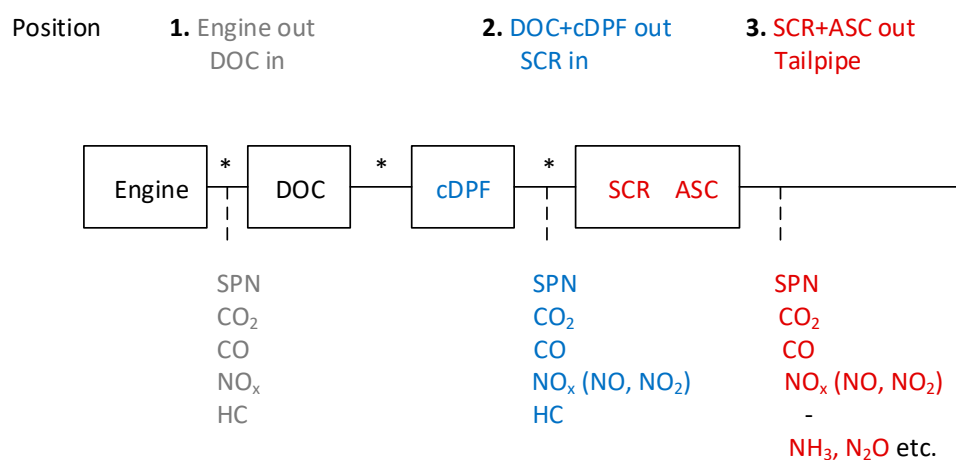


Figure 9. Experimental setup. Sampling positions and the naming conventions. Asterisks indicate exhaust gas temperature measurements. ASC = ammonia slip catalyst; cDPF = catalyzed Diesel particulate filter; DOC = Diesel oxidation catalyst; SCR = selective catalytic reduction; SPN = solid particle number.

The tests were conducted at the vehicle emissions laboratory (VELA 7) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, in Italy. The vehicle was fixed on the 4-wheel drive roller dynamometer. The road load coefficients were estimated to be $F_0 = 1460 \text{ N}$ and $F_2 = 0.247 \text{ N}/(\text{km/h})^2$ for an inertia of 29,000 kg, corresponding to 66% of maximum payload. One test (Urban empty) was conducted with 9% of the maximum payload to challenge the SCR system due to the lower exhaust gas temperatures. The dynamometer coefficients for this test were: $F_0 = 510 \text{ N}$, $F_2 = 0.191 \text{ N}/(\text{km/h})^2$, and 10,000 kg.

The instruments were sampling from three positions simultaneously (Figure 9):

- Engine out (or DOC in);
- DOC + cDPF out (or SCR in);
- SCR + ASC out (corresponding to the end of the tailpipe).

For particle emissions, three AVL particle counters were used (models APC 489 and APX xApp) [55] with similar characteristics: hot dilution at 150°C (10:1 up to 300:1 depending on the position), catalytic stripper at 350°C [56,57], cold dilution at ambient temperature (10:1), and two counters measuring from 23 nm [58] and 10 nm [59].

For gaseous emissions, AMA i60 analyzers were used at the first two positions and an AVL Sesam FTIR (Fourier transform infrared) spectrometer [60] at position three. The gas analyzers applied the following principles: nondispersive infrared for CO and CO_2 , and chemiluminescence for NO_x .

The test protocol consisted of test cycles covering urban driving, up to high speed and load driving. The basis was the world harmonized vehicle cycle (WHVC), which is a cycle

developed using the same data with which the engine-type-approval dynamometer transient cycle was developed: world harmonized transient cycle (WHTC). It consisted of urban, rural, and motorway parts with a total duration of 1800 s. The test was conducted with cold engine start (i.e., coolant temperature within ± 3 °C ambient temperature) and hot engine start (i.e., coolant temperature > 70 °C), similarly to the engine-type-approval procedure.

The “urban empty” cycle represented driving in a city with low load, conditions challenging for the SCR system due to the low exhaust gas temperatures. The real-world cycle (RWC) was a typical cycle consisting of urban (28%), rural (30%), and motorway (42%) parts (shares in time). The “idling” test was conducted to test the emissions after prolonged idling. This test served to assess the future periodic technical inspection (PTI) procedures. The “max load” cycle was typically used at the end of the day to passively regenerate the DPF and reach a low level of soot in the DPF, as a challenging condition for the next day’s cold start (for particle emissions).

The ambient temperature was approximately 23 °C (± 2 °C), except one WHVC conducted at 5 °C. Table 5 summarizes the tests in the order that were conducted and their basic characteristics. In the Results section, when two or more repetitions are available, the average is reported.

Table 5. Test protocol and main characteristics of the test cycles. All tests with 66% payload except “Urban empty” (9% payload).

Cycle	Duration (s)	D (km)	Speed (km/h)	W/D (kWh/km)	T _{amb} (°C)	T _{coolant} (°C)	DPF ¹ (%)
WHVC cold	1800	20.2	40.4	1.52	24	29	11.8/11.8
WHVC hot	1800	20.2	40.5	1.40	25	79	11.8/11.8
Max load	1300	27.1	75.1	3.26	25	84	11.8/9.8
RWC urban	2085	15.7	27.2	1.24	23	23	9.8/9.8
RWC rural	2190	28.1	46.2	1.34	23	80	9.8/25.8
RWC motorway	3150	71.3	81.5	1.00	24	80	25.8/26.7
Idling	3150	0.0	0.0	-	25	80	26.7/26.7
Max load	2745	58.4	76.6	3.33	25	79	26.7/11.0
WHVC cold	1800	20.2	40.3	1.44	22	21	11.0/11.0
WHVC hot	1800	20.1	40.2	1.40	21	81	11.0/11.0
Urban empty	2745	13.2	17.3	0.99	22	26	11.0/13.7
WHVC hot	1800	20.1	40.3	1.34	22	79	13.7/13.7
WHVC cold	1800	20.2	40.4	1.43	4	6	13.7/13.7
30–60–90 km/h	1800	25.5	30.0	0.87	24	55	13.7/13.7

¹ Fill state of the DPF as stated at the respective channel of the electronic control unit (ECU). D = distance; DPF = Diesel particulate filter; RWC = real-world cycle; T = temperature; W = work; WHVC = world harmonized vehicle cycle.

4. Conclusions

A heavy-duty vehicle fulfilling the latest Euro VI step E requirements was tested on a chassis dynamometer with various cycles. The NO_x reduction was 55% (cold start urban cycle) to 97% (high load steady driving), resulting in low emissions for hot start cycles (< 0.8 g/kWh), but 2–3 g/kWh for cold start cycles. The CO emissions were < 1 g/kWh, except for the cold start urban cycles (around 2.5 g/kWh). The particle number emissions were around 1×10^{11} #/kWh. It was clearly shown that these particles were formed by the urea injection downstream of the particulate filter. During cold start cycles, emissions were 10 times higher. The empty particulate filter had a filtration efficiency of 85% at the beginning of the cycle, reaching $> 99.9\%$ after approximately four minutes. During the passive regeneration, the filtration efficiency was around 93%. The N₂O emissions reached 200 mg/kWh, while the NH₃ slip was negligible. Of particular interest was the high NO₂/NO_x ratio needed for the passive regeneration of the particulate filter and the more efficient NO_x reduction in the SCR. Emissions during idling were low (particle number emissions $< 2.5 \times 10^4$ #/cm³). NO_x were < 35 ppm and started increasing only after

15–20 min of idling. During the first 60 s of cold start, no NO_x were measured. This was attributed to NO_x storage when no water existed (i.e., during condensation on the surfaces). The results of this study highlight the need of better control of the emissions during cold start and challenging situations (e.g., extensive idling and passive regeneration), especially if the limits will be decreased in the future.

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