



TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

 Proudly Policing Since 1841	SUBJECT Traffic Enforcement Measuring Devices		 Nationally Accredited 1986
	CHIEF OF POLICE <i>Signature on File</i>		
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AUTHORITY/RELATED REFERENCES

Administrative Code 15B-14.002, Light Transmittance Measuring Devices
 Administrative Code 15B-2, Speed Measuring Devices
 FS Chapter 316, State Uniform Traffic Control
 General Order 56, Traffic Stops
 General Order 76, Traffic and Parking Enforcement

ACCREDITATION REFERENCES

CALEA Chapter 61

KEY WORD INDEX

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POLICY

Officers conducting traffic enforcement are responsible for adhering to the established Department protocols and statutory mandates in the utilization of traffic enforcement measuring devices, and conducting such activities in a safe and prudent manner.

DEFINITIONS

LIDAR: Light Detection and Ranging; a speed measuring system used to measure distances and speed through light detection and ranging, commonly referred to as LASER. The mechanical device is called a LIDAR unit.

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Light Transmittance Measuring Device (Tint Meter): A device utilized to measure the amount of light transmitted through auto window glass having any applied film or coating.

Pacing: The positioning of a Department vehicle at a stable and fixed distance behind a moving vehicle, at a matching speed, in an effort to determine the other vehicle's speed.

RADAR: Radio Detection and Ranging; a speed measuring system used to measure speed through radio wave detection and ranging. The mechanical device is called a RADAR unit.

Speed Measuring Device: A Department-issued LIDAR unit or RADAR unit or a Department vehicle speedometer.

PROCEDURES

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Only sworn members are authorized to utilize a speed measuring device or a light transmittance measuring device.
- B. Officers are authorized to only utilize a speed measuring device or a light transmittance measuring device for a legitimate Department purpose.
- C. Only LIDAR and RADAR units and light transmittance-measuring devices approved by the Chief of Police or designee are authorized for Department utilization.
- D. Any speed measuring device and light transmittance measuring device utilized by an officer must be in compliance with applicable Florida Administrative Codes.
- E. The Traffic Unit's DUI Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the:
 1. Maintenance, six-month bench testing, and calibrations of LIDAR and RADAR units, and
 2. Equipment certifications of light transmittance measuring devices.
- F. Officers are responsible for maintaining the speedometer calibration certification for their assigned vehicle in compliance with Florida Administrative Code (i.e., every six months) for the purposes of utilizing:

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1. Pacing, and
 2. Moving RADAR.
- G. Prior to utilizing a LIDAR or RADAR unit, the officer must successfully complete the operator's course for the specific speed measuring device, and be certified to operate the device.
- H. Each officer assigned or utilizing a LIDAR or RADAR unit, or a light transmittance measuring device is required to properly maintain the device in operable condition.
- I. Officers are not authorized to use any malfunctioning or out of certification LIDAR or RADAR unit, or light transmittance measuring device.
- J. Officers are not authorized to alter, repair or otherwise modify any LIDAR or RADAR unit, or light transmittance measuring device, and are responsible for promptly reporting any unit or device malfunction to the DUI Coordinator.
- K. The DUI Coordinator is responsible for properly maintaining the maintenance, calibration, and operational records for each LIDAR and RADAR unit, and light transmittance measuring device, and shall, as warranted, provide such records as evidence in court.

II. RADAR – SPEED MEASURING DEVICE

- A. The following protocols are applicable for the operation of a RADAR unit:
1. RADAR units designed for in-vehicle installation must be mounted as prescribed in certification training and/or by the DUI Coordinator.
 2. The RADAR unit must be properly connected to an approved power source (i.e., vehicle 12-volt outlet, 12-volt power pack).
 3. The effective range, and subjectivity to interference, of a particular RADAR unit must be understood by the officer in order to properly match visual target speed observations with speed readings.
 4. The officer shall choose an appropriate speed enforcement location with primary consideration to officer and public safety.

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5. Officers shall only utilize a RADAR unit which is properly calibrated to ensure accuracy in checking speed.
 6. Before beginning and after concluding each enforcement period, calibration tests using internal checks and external tuning fork verifications must be conducted.
 7. The calibration tests cited in subsection A 6 above shall be documented on the Speed Measurement Device Daily Test Log Sheet (PD 273).
- B. Officers who are not RADAR operators are authorized to participate in speed enforcement activities with a RADAR operator, and may make traffic stops and issue warnings or citations based upon the information provided by the operator.
- C. Officers using RADAR units shall establish and testify to the following in a court proceeding:
1. Employment with the Department at the time of the traffic enforcement,
 2. Training in the operation of the RADAR unit,
 3. The State of Florida's acceptability of the specific model of RADAR unit used in the enforcement,
 4. The proper certification of compliance for the RADAR unit,
 5. The RADAR unit was tested for accuracy utilizing both internal and external checks prior to, and at the conclusion of, the enforcement period,
 6. The time and location of the enforcement,
 7. Target vehicle identification,
 8. Visual estimation of the target vehicle's speed,
 9. The Doppler tone emitted by the RADAR unit corresponding with the visual speed estimation of the target vehicle,
 10. The identity of the target vehicle operator, and

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11. The proper certification of compliance for the patrol vehicle's speedometer, in the case of a moving RADAR enforcement.

III. LIDAR – SPEED MEASURING DEVICE

- A. The following protocols are applicable for the operation of a LIDAR unit:

1. The LIDAR unit must be properly connected to an approved power source (i.e., vehicle 12-volt outlet, 12-volt power pack).
2. The effective range, and subjectivity to interference, of a particular LIDAR unit must be understood by the officer in order to properly match visual target speed observations with speed readings.
3. The officer shall choose an appropriate speed enforcement location with primary consideration to officer and public safety.
4. Officers shall only utilize a LIDAR unit which is properly calibrated to ensure accuracy in checking speed and range.
5. Prior to beginning, and at the conclusion of, each enforcement period, calibration tests using internal checks and external range and targeting verifications shall be conducted.
6. The calibration tests cited in subsection A 5 above shall be documented on the Speed Measurement Device Daily Test Log Sheet (PD 273).

- B. Officers who are not LIDAR operators are authorized to participate in speed enforcement activities with a LIDAR operator, and may make traffic stops and issue warnings or citations based upon the information provided by the operator.

- C. Officers using LIDAR units shall establish and testify to the following in a court proceeding:

1. Employment with the Department at the time of traffic enforcement,
2. Training in the operation of the LIDAR unit,
3. The State of Florida's acceptability of the specific model of the LIDAR unit used in the enforcement,
4. The proper certification of compliance for the LIDAR unit,

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5. The LIDAR unit was tested for accuracy utilizing both internal and external checks prior to, and at the conclusion of, the enforcement period,
6. The time and location of the enforcement,
7. The target vehicle identification,
8. The visual estimation of the target vehicle's speed, and
9. The identity of the target vehicle operator.

IV. VEHICLE SPEEDOMETER – SPEED MEASURING DEVICE

- A. Officers are authorized to conduct vehicle speed enforcement through pacing as long as such action is conducted in:
 1. A reasonable and safe manner, and
 2. In compliance with applicable statutes and Department policies.
- B. Vehicle speed enforcement by pacing does not require special operator training or certification.
- C. Directed patrol vehicles and other vehicles without an operational siren and emergency lights may be used for pacing only when:
 1. The vehicle's speedometer calibration is currently certified, and
 2. The vehicle is not utilized for making the traffic stop.
- D. Officers using pacing shall establish and testify to the following in a court proceeding:
 1. Employment with the Department at the time of the traffic enforcement,
 2. The time and location of the enforcement,
 3. Target vehicle identification,
 4. Visual estimation of the target vehicle's speed,
 5. Circumstances of the pacing (e.g., matching speeds),

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6. The identity of the target vehicle operator, and
7. The proper calibration of the vehicle's speedometer.

V. LIGHT TRANSMITTANCE MEASURING DEVICE (TINT METER)

- A. Department-owned light transmittance measuring devices shall only be issued through the DUI Coordinator.
- B. Any officer-owned light transmittance measuring device shall be inspected by the DUI Coordinator prior to being utilized by an officer.
- C. At the time of issuance or inspection as outlined in subsection A and B above, the DUI Coordinator shall review with the officer the following information:
 1. Applicable Florida Statutes,
 2. Applicable Florida Administrative Code(s), and
 3. This general order.

History: previous title (*speed measuring devices*) – issued 01/12/1996, revised 11/15/2001, 04/08/2004, and 01/01/2010 (*change of title*).