



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE

NUMBER P-2019-063	EFFECTIVE DATE November 13, 2019	RESCINDS P-17-063 Issued 5-22-17
SUBJECT Radar/Lidar Operation Procedure		ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief Kenneth R. Ball II

I. POLICY

The primary objective of a traffic enforcement program is the reduction of accidents and the enforcement of existing laws. Research has shown that the enforcement of speed laws reduces the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Speed detection devices are accurate and efficient tools, and will be used in a professional manner to aid in accomplishing this objective.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Radar (**RA**dio **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging) - A system used for determining the speed of vehicles by sending out a radio wave and measuring the time for the echo of the radio wave to return from it.
- B. Lidar (**LI**ght **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging) - A system using pulse laser detection that sends out a predetermined series of light pulses with a known time interval between each pulse to a target. It measures the time of flight between the transmit and receive sensors resulting in an accurate speed and range.

III. PROCEDURE

A. RADAR/LIDAR OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS

- 1. The purpose for radar/lidar operator qualifications is to establish a **minimum** standard of training for personnel who engage in the use of radar/lidar for traffic enforcement. This training is to ascertain their skill and efficiency in the proper use of traffic radar and to establish criteria for departmental certification of radar/lidar operators.
- 2. The standards for certification of radar/lidar operators by the Akron Police Department shall consist of successful completion of the following training:
 - a. Formal Training – Forty (40) hours of classroom and field training by a certified radar/lidar instructor in theory, technical aspects, target identification, unit testing and visual speed estimates. As of July 2014, this is required by OPOTA in the basic academy.
 - b. Field Training – Upon completion of the formal training, the trainee shall work

for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in the accompaniment of a certified radar/lidar operator. The certified radar/lidar operator must ascertain the trainee's expertise and skill in the proper operation of the radar/lidar unit before departmental certification is deemed to have been met.

- c. Recertification – Every 36 months (3 years) radar/lidar operators will receive four (4) hours of review of proper radar/lidar procedures, court testimony and updating. This training will be conducted by a certified radar/lidar instructor and a written exam must be successfully completed.
3. No personnel shall operate a radar/lidar unit for the purpose of traffic enforcement unless said personnel have met the standards of certification established by the Akron Police Department.

B. OPERATIONAL CHECKLISTS

1. The purpose of the operational checklists is to establish a uniform system of checking radar/lidar units for proper operation and accuracy.
2. Radar operational checklist – all steps will be done at the start of each shift and steps d-i will be done before and after each citation.
 - a. Check radar unit serial number and tuning forks.
 - b. Visual inspection of radar unit.
 - c. Turn on.
 - d. Check light test.
 - e. Perform internal circuitry test (I.C.T.)
 - f. Perform external tests (tuning forks).
 1. Stationary mode.
 2. Moving mode.
 - g. Check audio doppler.
 - h. Check antenna position.
 - i. Verify patrol speed against cruiser speedometer.
3. Lidar units – all steps will be done at the beginning of each shift and before and after each citation.

- a. Internal Circuitry/ Light Test (ICT)
 - b. Sight alignment
 - c. Range (Distance) Accuracy
 - d. Reticle Alignment
4. Any radar/lidar unit found to be damaged, malfunctioning or inaccurate will be removed from service until such time as proper repairs are made. Only a certified technician licensed by the FCC will be permitted to perform repairs to the unit.

C. RADAR/LIDAR ENFORCEMENT ACTION

1. Enforcement action will include the needed elements for court prosecutions in full compliance with current judicial rulings.
2. No enforcement action will be taken solely upon the unsupported reading of any speed detection device without visual and audio confirmation of the violator. The following elements **must** be met before enforcement action is taken:
 - a. The operator will ensure that the unit is in good operating condition.
 - b. The unit must be operated by a qualified operator.
 - c. The operator must make a visual identification of the speeding vehicle independent of the speed detection device readout.
 - d. The operator's speed estimate must be within 3 mph of the radar/lidar readout.
 - e. (For radar) The operator must hear a pure audio doppler tone consistent with the operator's speed estimate and the counting unit's readout.
 - f. The operator must make a distance estimate of the violator.

By Order Of,



Kenneth R. Ball II
Chief of Police

Date November 13, 2019