


NORTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Administration & Operations Manual		
Policy: Use of Speed Measuring Devices		AOM: O-303
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced: [61.1.1], [61.1.9.a], [61.1.9.c], [61.1.9.d]		Issuing Authority <hr/> John D. Cartledge Chief of Police
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I. Introductory Discussion

The purpose of this directive is to provide general guidelines for the use of speed measuring device as a selective enforcement technique.

II. Authorization/Equipment/Training

A. Assignment of Personnel: The use of speed measuring devices is a selective enforcement tool. It is the responsibility of the Traffic Supervisor to make recommendations to the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of a shift for the assignment of personnel to radar details. [61.1.1]

1. Officers may use radar/lidar while on patrol in their assigned areas when the officer observes a need for such enforcement.

B. Equipment Specifications: Only those speed measuring devices which are approved by the Departmental Traffic Supervisor, and are in compliance with standards set forth by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall be purchased and/or utilized. [61.1.9,a]

1. **Mounted Units:** Units will be installed in vehicles as designated by the Operations Division Commander and/or Traffic Supervisor. Units will not be removed or reconfigured without direct knowledge of the Traffic Supervisor or designee. Problems should be directed to the Traffic Supervisor or designee.
 2. **Hand Held Radar/Lidar:** Units will be issued to officers as needed. Officers are responsible for ensuring the safety of the unit. Units should be secured or stored in protective devices as issued when not in use. Any problems should immediately be reported to the OIC and Traffic Supervisor.
- C. Training/Certification: Officers using speed measuring devices (Radar/Lidar) shall be fully trained and certified before being authorized to use such devices for traffic law enforcement. Additionally, officers assigned to radar/lidar duty shall have a working knowledge of all current speeds and posted and unposted areas in their assigned area prior to assignment. [61.1.9,e]

III. Responsibilities of Assigned Officer

- A. It is the duty and responsibility of an officer assigned to radar/lidar detail to:
1. Be certain the specific car assigned to radar/lidar is operational. Any defects or malfunctions should be reported to the OIC and Traffic Supervisor.
 2. Be certain, before their tour of duty begins, that the speed measuring device is in perfect working order and report any discrepancies or malfunctions to a Supervisor. The Supervisor shall notify the Traffic Supervisor of all discrepancies or malfunctions as soon as possible thereafter.
 3. Set up their equipment in designated areas given to them by the Supervisor and spend the amount of time allotted for each area by the Supervisor.
 - a. These areas are determined by request from community members and by demand in accident-prone areas.
 4. Operate the speed measuring device in accordance with recognized practices designed to ensure the safe operation of the devices and with directions received through training. [61.1.9,b]
 5. Cite all violators recorded and take appropriate action as to issuing warnings and complaints. See *[AOM O300 Traffic Law Enforcement](#)*.
 6. Be courteous and conduct themselves in an efficient manner at all times. They should refrain from arguing with involved parties and maintain a professional attitude.
 7. At the end of their tour of duty, they shall hand all citations, whether complaint or warning, to the Supervisor. All criminal complaints require an attached narrative.

IV. Maintenance, Care and Upkeep

- A. All officers using speed measuring devices are responsible for the proper care and upkeep of the unit(s) they use. Such care and upkeep shall be done in accordance

- with the directions given to them during their original training in the use of the equipment. [61.1.9,c]
- B. Handheld radar/lidar units should be stored in the hard shell case when not in use. The hard shell case or the officer's cruiser bag may be used to store the unit while in operation. Whichever container is used, it should be secured in place by the cruiser seatbelt to insure the safety of the unit and the operator.
 - C. Programmed Maintenance: The Traffic Supervisor shall schedule maintenance inspections of each speed measuring device at least as often as the units are calibrated. The Traffic Supervisor shall maintain a record of maintenance on each unit. [61.1.9,d]
 - D. Maintenance & Calibration Records: Each speed measuring device shall be calibrated as needed. Each officer shall check the calibration of the unit each time it is used during their tour of duty. The Traffic Supervisor shall maintain a record of all such calibrations. [61.1.9,d]