

# Department of State Police

## General Order

Effective Date	July 21, 1998	Number	TRF - 16
Subject	<b>SPEED MEASURING DEVICES</b>		

**Policy** The Department shall use speed measuring devices to assist officers in enforcing the motor vehicle laws.

**Use** The safety of the officer, traffic violator, and motoring public shall be of primary concern whenever selecting locations for speed enforcement operations.

- LIDAR and radar devices should not be used during periods of adverse weather conditions.

**Calibration and Certification** All officers using radar, LIDAR, or other speed measuring devices must successfully complete the basic operator training program and receive certification prior to use.

- Officers shall follow the manufacturer's guidelines for the maintenance and operational procedures of the devices; and
- Officers shall perform calibration checks at the beginning and end of each shift, and periodically as needed to ensure accuracy. If the device does not work properly, it shall be taken out of service immediately until repaired.

**Maintenance**

- Certificates and documentation of maintenance, calibration, and certification shall be maintained by the assigned officer, or at the station.
- Speed measuring devices that do not operate within the specifications and standards established by the manufacturer of the device shall be taken out of service immediately, and repaired and calibrated prior to future use.
- All radar devices shall be certified annually.

**Speedometer** Speedometers shall be checked by using a speed measuring device:

- Periodically;
- After cruiser service, specifically including transmission work or new tires; and
- If a question of accuracy arises.

**Troop Traffic Programs Officer Responsibilities** The Troop Traffic Programs Officer shall ensure that:

- All officers are trained in speed estimating and detection and are certified as speed measuring operators; and
- Radar devices are certified annually, as directed by the Commanding Officer of the Equipment, Training, and Maintenance Unit and the Traffic Programs Section.

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**Troop Traffic Programs Officer Responsibilities** The Troop Traffic Programs Officer shall maintain an inventory of all speed measuring devices within the Troop. The inventory shall include:

- Officer assigned the unit;
- Serial number of the unit; and
- The Department Inventory Control number.

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**Testimony** Officers should be aware of the following elements that may be required in court:

- The time, location, and direction of travel of the violator vehicle;
- The identity of the violator;
- The make, model, and color of the violator vehicle;
- The visual estimate and confirmation of the speed by the speed measuring device;
- The device was operating properly;
- The device was properly calibrated and certified; and
- The training, qualifications, and certification of the officer.

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**Limitations** The effective use of speed measuring devices and their acceptance by the public and courts is dependent upon the officer's:

- Understanding of limiting factors;
- Appropriate training and certification; and
- Proper care and use of the equipment.

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**References** CALEA 61.1.9  
Commonwealth v. Whyngaught, 377 Mass. 19 (1979)

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Promulgated By: