NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 61.1.9

TITLE: SPEED-MEASURING DEVICES

EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018
REVISED: Replaces Policy 515

PURPOSE

This Chapter provides guidelines for use, training, maintenance, and equipment specifications for speed measuring devices approved for use by department members.

POLICY

1. Only department owned speed-measuring devices will be used by officers of the New Orleans Police Department.

2. Prior to a district officer engaging in a speeding checkpoint, he/she shall obtain permission from their platoon supervisor.

3. The Across-The-Road Radar, Down-The-Road Radar, and Lidar minimum performance specifications are published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These performance specifications are intended to ensure that the devices are accurate and reliable when properly operated and maintained.

DEFINITIONS

LIDAR (**Li**ght **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging)—A laser speed-measuring device and system that transmit coherent infra-red light pulses, measure the time of flight for the pulses reflected from moving vehicles, then calculate and display or output the speed of the target vehicle, and may automatically record images of those vehicles which exceed a preset speed. Also, down-the-road speed-measuring equipment that determines target range and speed based on the time-of-flight of laser light pulses reflected off a target.

RADAR (**R**adio **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging)—Police traffic radar. It is a Doppler radar unit that may be hand-held, vehicle-mounted or static. It measures the speed of the moving vehicles at which it is pointed by detecting a change in frequency of the returned radar signal caused by the Doppler Effect, whereby the frequency of the returned signal is increased in proportion to the vehicle's speed of approach if the object is approaching, and lowered if the vehicle is receding. Such devices are used for speed limit enforcement.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION

4. Each District and the SOD—Traffic Section shall provide administrative control and ensure certification of each vehicle speed-measuring device as follows:
   (a) Establish and maintain a separate file for each speed-measuring device.
   (b) Ensure that each device is engraved or marked with an appropriate control number.
   (c) Ensure that on a semi-annual basis each device and tuning fork is certified by its vendor or other qualified technician as being properly calibrated.
   (d) Proof of certification shall be maintained in the respective file of each device.
   (e) Ensure that all speed measuring devices are repaired on a regular and timely basis.
   (f) Ensure proper storage of all speed-measuring devices when not issued to an officer or in active use.

5. Certification as an operator of the speed-measurement device requires that an officer must attend a training program administered by a qualified instructor. The program shall be designated and approved by the Commander of the SOD – Traffic Section.

6. The SOD—Traffic Section shall maintain records of all officers certified to operate an approved speed measuring device.

7. A copy of the certification and/or training record shall be forwarded to the Education and Training Division to be included in the officer's training / certification file.

8. Certification and required re-certification of an operator of a specific speed-measuring device shall be maintained in accordance with legal requirements and industry / manufacturer standards.

9. The officer's supervisor will ensure that a copy of all certifications and re-certifications shall be placed in the officer's personnel jacket with another copy forwarded to the Personnel Division.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Officers shall properly store all speed-measuring devices when not in active use.

11. Officers will checkout a speed-measurement device from their respective District or the SOD – Traffic Section.

12. Upon approval by his/her supervisor to check out a speed-measuring device, the officer shall complete the Device Control Log maintained by the respective District or the SOD – Traffic Section.

13. Instrument tests for calibration on speed-measurement devices are to be performed at the beginning and end of the duty shift in which the device is operated. These tests are part of the setup and tear down process. Appropriate tests include:
   (a) **Internal Circuit Test:** The internal circuit test is performed by pressing a button and checking the speed display to verify that the number 32 appears. In all cases, the internal test is passed only if the proper number appears exactly. If any other number appears, the radar unit should be taken out of service.
   (b) **Light Segment Test**: The light segment test is performed by pressing a button and checking the speed display to verify that 188 (target display) and 88 (patrol display) appear. If a burned out segment is discovered, the radar unit should be taken out of service.

(c) **External Tuning Fork Test**: The radar tuning fork is specially calibrated for use with the radar device and cannot be interchanged between devices. The speed measurement cannot differ from the certified value of the tuning fork by more than 1 mph (+/-). If the deviation persists, the radar unit should be taken out of service.
(d) **Patrol Speed Verification Test**: The patrol speed verification test applies to moving radar units. The purpose of this check is to establish that the moving radar unit is properly displaying the actual patrol car speed. The operator accelerates to a steady speed (25mph to 55 mph) and compares the radar's patrol speed readout with the patrol car's calibrated speedometer. The speeds must correspond. If there is any deviation, the radar unit should be taken out of service.
(e) Power up the laser unit to check the internal setting and the light segments.
(f) The laser has to be checked out at a distance of fifty and one hundred feet.
(g) The laser sight alignment test for the unit has to be tested for accuracy, both vertical and horizontal.

14. Immediately after use of a speed-measuring device to make an excessive speed case, the officer shall perform appropriate tests on the device being used.

15. All tests shall be documented in a log book that shall be kept for each speed-measuring device. These log books shall be maintained by the respective District or the SOD – Traffic Section.