

# **COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**Subject: SPEED DETECTION DEVICES**

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### **I. Purpose**

To establish proper procedures for the utilization of speed detection devices in traffic law enforcement.

### **II. Statement of Policy**

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department to ensure that all sworn personnel authorized to use speed detection devices are properly trained and certified.

### **III. Radar Operator Training and Certification**

- A. Any officer desiring to run a speed detection device shall complete a mandated training course and shall be certified by Georgia P.O.S.T. Officers must receive certification before being authorized to use a speed detection device.
- B. Radar certifications are good for three years. At that point, officers will be recertified on radar. There is no recertification requirement for Lidar (laser).
- C. The police department shall maintain compliance with OCGA Title 40, Chapter 14, "Use of Radar Speed Detection Devices."

### **IV. Radar Operational Procedures and Maintenance**

- A. The speed detection device shall be tested for accuracy at the beginning and the end of each tour of duty. (OCGA 40-14-5)
  1. Each test shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedures.
  2. Any speed detection device not meeting the manufacturer's minimum accuracy requirements shall be removed from service until it has been repaired and recertified by a qualified technician. (OCGA 40-14-4).
  3. Any officer using a radar unit shall notify each person against whom the officer intends to make a case based on the use of the speed detection device that the person has a right to request the officer to test the radar unit for accuracy. The notice shall be given prior to the time a citation is

issued. In the event the radar unit does not meet the minimum accuracy requirements, no citation shall be issued and the speed detection device removed from service pursuant to A.2. above. (OCGA 40-14-5).

- C. No speed detection device may be used where the vehicle from which the device is operated is not visible to approaching motorists for a distance of at least 500 feet.
- D. Evidence obtained by officers using speed measuring devices will be considered inadmissible in court, if:
  - 1. Within 500 feet of a speed detection warning sign.
  - 2. Within 300 feet of a reduction of a speed limit.
  - 3. The violation has occurred within 30 days following the reduction of the speed limit in the area where the violation took place.
  - 4. The violation occurred on any portion of any highway that has a grade in excess of seven percent (7%).

The radar shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the instructions provided in the operator's manual.

## V. Calibration Records

- A. At the beginning and the end of each patrol shift, the internal test and tuning fork test will be conducted. If the unit fails in any of the above tests, it shall be removed from service. The Patrol Officer shall inform the dispatcher when the radar has been tested and the dispatcher will record the time and test in the radio log. The radar test log will be maintained in the Patrol Division.
- B. During each shift, prior to using a lidar for speed detection, the officer will conduct a distance check of 90 feet and 115 feet at the two marked locations in the Patrol Division parking lot. The distance check will also be performed at the conclusion of using the lidar. The Patrol Officer shall inform the dispatcher when the lidar has been tested and the dispatcher will record the time and test in the radio log. The lidar test log will be maintained in the Patrol Division.
- C. Once a year, all units must be calibrated by a certified technician.

***This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.***

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

*Stacey L. Cotton*  
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Chief of Police