



Charleston County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedures Manual

Sheriff Carl Ritchie

13-04 Speed Measuring Devices

- ☐ NEW
- ☐ REVISED
- ☒ REVIEWED

ACA Standards Reference:
CALEA Standards Reference: 61.1.8
NCCHC Standards Reference:
SCLEA Standards Reference:
SC Minimum Standards:

This policy dated 1/29/2025 replaces prior policies cited above and supersedes all previously issued directives.

I. Purpose:

To establish procedures for the care, maintenance, and use of speed measuring devices and to outline training requirements and certifications necessary to operate such equipment.

II. Policy:

It is the policy of this agency to utilize speed measuring devices such as Radar and Lidar devices, in high or potentially high collision locations where speed is a factor, in areas where speed limit violations are prevalent, and in response to citizen complaints concerning speeding motorists.

III. Definitions:

A. For purposes of this procedure, the word "deputy" applies to all agency employees with a certification classification of Class I, Class II, Class III, or Reserve Deputy as defined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

The following terms are used interchangeably; however, they carry guidance to specific employees based on usage of the term:

1. Deputy, deputy sheriff, detention deputy, sworn employee, uniformed sworn employee, sworn administrative employee, and
2. civilian, non-sworn employee.

B. *Employee:* When used without further clarification, the term employee is inclusive of all agency members (sworn and non-sworn).

IV. Procedure:

A. Equipment Specifications:

All speed measuring devices (i.e., Radar and Lidar devices) utilized for traffic enforcement purposes by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office shall meet or exceed the equipment specifications and performance standards prescribed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(Ref: CALEA 61.1.8 item a)

B. Operational Procedures:

The precise method for using a Radar or Lidar device and the enforcement of

speed laws will vary in accordance with the type of equipment used. Generally, the following procedures are applicable:

1. The device must be properly installed and connected to the power supply;
2. the effective range of the particular unit must be thoroughly understood by the operator so that visual observations can support the speed meter readings; and
3. the operator must choose an appropriate location that is conducive to the effective and safe operation of Radar or Lidar device.

C. Proper Care and Upkeep:

Radar and Lidar devices utilized by this agency will be cared for like any other piece of fragile electronic equipment. These devices will not be subjected to rough treatment. Any Radar or Lidar device which has been damaged or is no longer in proper working order will be removed from service. Only qualified service technicians will make repairs on Radar and Lidar devices used by this agency.

D. Maintenance and Calibration Records:

1. The Radio Communications Department of Charleston County Government is responsible for ensuring programmed maintenance for all Radar and Lidar equipment used by the Sheriff's Office. Programmed maintenance shall include maintenance on at least an annual basis which will check all lights, readout windows, connectors, tuning forks, mounting brackets, and all other vital parts of the units or their casings and mounts.
2. Programmed maintenance will include professional calibration of each operational Radar device at least once each year by a factory-authorized technician and calibration of each Lidar device whenever they are sent in for repair.
3. The Radio Communications Department is responsible to ensure adequate maintenance and calibration records (suitable for introduction as evidence in court) are developed and maintained for all Radar and Lidar devices used by the Sheriff's Office.

(Ref: CALEA 61.1.8 item d)

E. Operator Training and Certification:

Deputy sheriffs shall be trained and certified in the use of Radar and Lidar devices before being authorized to operate such equipment in the field. Training will follow guidelines promulgated by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) and taught by a SCCJA certified Speed Measuring Device (SMD) instructor. The Sheriff's Office Training Unit is responsible for maintaining training and certification records and facilitating operator recertification training.