

STANDARD FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SPEED-MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force Revision July 10, 2000

The goals of this standard are: First, to ensure that all speed-measurement devices procured by law enforcement agencies and subsequently used for speed-enforcement purposes can be operated in a trustworthy manner by a properly trained operator; second, to simplify its operation as much as possible; and third, to make it as useful as possible for speed enforcement purposes when used under a wide variety of operating conditions.

While it is difficult to write a comprehensive set of performance specifications to describe a single ideal device, the Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force recommends that, as a minimum consideration, law enforcement agencies shall require that procured devices comply with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Consumer Products List (CPL) test standards.

This Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force standards are intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. The device is determined to be accurate before it is initially placed in service.
2. A properly trained operator will have the opportunity to verify that the device is in proper working order at the beginning and end of each shift in which the device is used for speed-enforcement purposes.
3. A properly trained operator will have the best possible opportunity to use the device, coupled with the operator's own observations, to obtain an adequate target-tracking history before a motor vehicle operator is cited for a speeding violation.
4. The device exhibits the minimum possibility of displaying spurious target-speed display readings due to natural and man-made interference effects.
5. The device possesses an adequate target range.
6. The device is useful for its intended application; e.g., operating temperature range, display, blanking physical size, and mounting characteristics.
7. The device is ruggedly constructed and, consequently, able to withstand thermal, electrical and mechanical stresses that would be expected as the operator performs his/her regular duties.

Each law enforcement agency should determine which type and model best fits its particular set of needs. Consideration should be given to device performance; device size and mounting considerations; optional features and functions; compatibility with existing speed-measurement equipment used by the agency; operator training requirements; availability of repair facilities; repair and maintenance costs; and, finally the initial purchase price of each new device.

With respect to the procurement of speed-measurement devices, the Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force makes the following recommendations that:

1. Only speed measurement devices that appear on the IACP CPL should be purchased for use in Michigan.
2. All devices shall be electronically pre-tested by the manufacturer for compliance with the IACP standard before they are put into use in Michigan. Any additional testing, beyond the manufacturer's testing, can be achieved through the IACP.

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3. The State of Michigan's Department of Management and Budget maintain an open bid contract for new speed-measurement equipment.
4. Speed-measurement device evidence be admissible in court only if the device used is certified, as determined by the Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force.
5. It is not necessary to have these devices periodically recertified because a properly trained operator will be able to determine when a specific device is malfunctioning.

The Consumer Products List can be found on the International Association of Chiefs of Police web site at www.theiacp.org/profassist/viewcpl.html.