

For Information

March 2008

Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Use of the Laser Gun (LG) for Speed Enforcement;
Reviewing Operation Procedures for the“UltraLyte” Laser Gun

At the LegCo Panel on Transport Special Meeting held on 22 February 2008, the Administration was urged to provide a progress update on the review conducted by Police of the training and procedures in respect of the use of the laser gun (LG).

Progress of the Working Group (WG)

As part of the Police response to address public concern over LG speed check operations arising from a trial of a speeding offence in January 2008, the Commissioner of Police directed that a Working Group (WG) chaired by a Superintendent from TBHQ be formed on 15 January 2008. The WG was tasked to review the existing procedures and to establish good practices when conducting LG speed check operations.

The use of Training Notes (TN) were suspended on 15 January 2008 pending recommendations from the WG. All laser gun speed check operations have been conducted in accordance with the instructions contained in the Manufacturer's Manual (MM).

Membership of the WG was drawn from experienced LG trainers and other representatives nominated from the five Traffic formations in the Force. The WG also consulted the local agent of the manufacturer and the independent expert, Dr. TAM Wing-yim, from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

The WG has progressed as follows :-

- Reviewed current practices among all Traffic formations and confirmed that all tests and handling procedures have fully satisfied the requirements under the MM.

- Compiled a new document, the Force Training Notes (FTN) in English and Chinese. The FTN has been produced to standardize LG speed check operations across the Force. The MM is in English and the content is not specifically for law enforcement. By producing a bilingual FTN which focuses on practices and procedures for law enforcement it is firmly believed that the quality of service to the public can be enhanced. The FTN has been endorsed by the local agent of the laser gun manufacturer and the independent expert Dr. TAM Wing-yim.

The following WG recommendations have been incorporated into the FTN :-

- Extract from the MM relevant content for Police LG speed check operations which is commensurate with the training aptitude/requirement of the LG Operator (the Operator).
- Streamline the process in conducting assurance tests on the laser gun in a manner required by the independent expert who demands a standard higher than those required in the MM to ensure an abundance of caution. The following tests will be conducted during each speed check operation :-

	Before leaving base	Before operation on site	After operation on site	On return to base
Instrument Self Test	√	√	√	√
Display Integrity Test	√	√	√	√
Scope Alignment Test	√	X	X	√
Fixed Distance Zero Velocity Test	√	X	X	√

- Introduce the use of a specific record for laser gun assurance tests conducted by the Operator to provide a clearer chronological record of his required actions.
- Provide clearer instructions on roles and responsibilities of officers deployed in a speed check team, e.g. the Operator is responsible for drawing the laser gun and documenting his actions. Log sheets will be checked and signed by the Operator and the Assistant.

- Standardise the format of the log sheet, based on established good practices, to improve the recording of details of each offending vehicle detected during the speed check operation.
- Keep the LG Operator Record and the LG Speed Detection record as case exhibits and file the details in the relevant computer system.
- Standardise Police procedures on storage of laser guns.
- Standardise the use of a tripod for laser gun speed check operations whenever practicable.
- Introduce best practice in the preparation for court cases by improving the quality of the sketch of the speed check location, take a photograph of the location and attach it to the sketch.
- Establish an enhanced communication channel between Police, the local agent for the manufacturer and the independent expert for the purpose of exploring continued improvement on the use of LG and sharing good practices.
- Introduce good practices in administrative arrangement by reviewing all designated sites for the assurance tests. Dr. TAM has assisted in evaluating the sites selected for the purpose of conducting these tests.

The recommendations from the Working Group are being implemented in a progressive approach, which commenced on 28 February 2008, with a series of briefings to LG Trainers and Operators.

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