



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Municipal Police Training Committee
“Training for Today, Planning for the Future”

<i>Policy Name:</i>	<i>Policy Number:</i>	<i>Pages:</i>
MPTC Policy 5.02 - Electronic Control Weapons Training Standards	5.02	8

<i>Subject Area:</i>	<i>Reference/Notes:</i>
Veteran Officer/In-Service Training	Applicable to officers who are (a) authorized to carry an electronic control weapon and (b) required to complete MPTC annual in-service training
<i>Effective Date:</i>	<i>Issuing Authority:</i>
September 23, 2026	MPTC Committee, Chief James Hicks (<i>Chair</i>)
<i>Scheduled Reevaluation Date:</i>	<i>Previously Issued Dates:</i>
June 1, 2027	July 1, 2024

I. SCOPE

MPTC Policy 5.02 - Electronic Control Weapons Training Standards (“*MPTC ECW Training Standards Policy*”) applies to all officers who are or will be: (a) authorized by a law enforcement agency (“agency”) to carry an electronic control weapon (“ECW”), and; (b) required to complete MPTC annual in-service training.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the *MPTC ECW Training Standards Policy* is to ensure that officers who are authorized to carry and use an ECW:

- 1) before becoming authorized, (a) meet five prerequisites required by 501 CMR 8.05(1), (b) fulfill all manufacturer certification training requirements, and (c) complete at a minimum no less than six hours of initial ECW qualification training that fulfills the requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(1).
- 2) after becoming authorized, (a) fulfill all manufacturer recertification training requirements, and (b) complete at a minimum no less than four hours of annual ECW requalification training that fulfills the requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2).

III. POLICY

It is the policy of the MPTC that authorized officers comply with all training requirements established by an ECW's manufacturer and Massachusetts regulations 550 CMR 6.04(5) and 501 CMR 8.00.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Authorized Officer means a law enforcement officer who is certified by the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training ("POST") Commission, authorized by a law enforcement agency to carry an electronic control weapon, and required to complete MPTC annual in-service training.

Electronic Control Weapon ("ECW") means a portable device or weapon, regardless of whether it passes an electrical shock by means of a dart or projectile via a wire lead, from which an electrical current, impulse, wave, or beam is emitted that is designed to incapacitate temporarily by causing neuromuscular incapacitation or pain so that an officer can regain and maintain control of the individual. For purposes of this policy, "ECW" shall also mean a "stun gun" as that term is defined in M.G.L. c. 140, § 121.

Electronic Control Weapon ("ECW") Certification/Recertification training means training that an ECW's manufacturer requires an authorized officer to complete. The training is approved by the manufacturer, is taught by instructors certified by the manufacturer, and fulfills training requirements established by the manufacturer. Once certified, recertification is on a schedule set by the manufacturer. ECW certification and recertification training requirements established by the manufacturer can overlap with, but may not be identical to, ECW qualification and requalification training requirements established by Massachusetts regulation 501 CMR 8.06.

Electronic Control Weapon ("ECW") Qualification/Requalification training means training that Massachusetts regulation 501 CMR 8.06 requires an authorized officer to complete. The training is approved by the MPTC, is taught by instructors certified by the MPTC, and fulfills training requirements established by 501 CMR 8.06. Once qualified, requalification must take place annually during the MPTC's training year. ECW qualification and requalification training requirements established by 501 CMR 8.06 can overlap with, but may not be identical to, ECW certification and recertification training requirements established by the manufacturer.

Law Enforcement Agency ("agency") means a state, county, municipal or district law enforcement agency including, but not limited to:

- (a) a city, town or district police department, the office of environmental law enforcement, the University of Massachusetts police department, the department of the state police, the Massachusetts Port Authority police department, also known as the Port of Boston Authority police department, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority police department;
- (b) a sheriff's department in its performance of police duties and functions;
- (c) a public or private college, university or other educational institution or hospital police department;
- (d) a humane society police department in M.G.L. c. 22C, § 57; or
- (e) any other law enforcement agency subject to the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission certification requirements.

Law Enforcement Officer ("officer") means any officer of a law enforcement agency, including the

head of the agency; a special state police officer appointed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 22C, § 57, 58 or 63; a special sheriff appointed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 37, § 4, performing police duties and functions; a deputy sheriff appointed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 37, § 3 performing police duties and functions; a constable executing an arrest for any reason; any other special, reserve, or intermittent police officer; or any other law enforcement agency subject to POST Commission certification requirements. Law enforcement officer does not include state or county correctional officers designated to special operations or tactical teams within a state or county correctional facility.

Training Year (“TY”) means the MPTC’s annual in-service training year that commences July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year. Annual ECW requalification training required by 501 CMR 8.06(2) must be successfully completed during each training year.

V. PROCEDURES

a. PREREQUISITES FOR CARRYING AND USING AN ECW

Before an officer can become an authorized officer and carry and use an ECW in the performance of their official duties, they must meet five prerequisites:

- 1) be currently certified by the POST Commission;
- 2) be employed as an officer by a law enforcement agency;
- 3) have reviewed the agency's use of force and ECW policies and acknowledged such in writing;
- 4) have successfully completed a defensive tactics training course approved by the MPTC or the Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) including, but not limited to, the MPTC or the MSP basic recruit training that incorporates defensive tactics in the curriculum, and;
- 5) be authorized by the agency to carry a firearm in the performance of the officer's official duties and have successfully completed both use of force training and firearms training as approved by the MPTC or MSP’s Colonel.

b. INITIAL ECW QUALIFICATION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

If the five prerequisites have been met:

- 1) 550 CMR 6.04(5) requires that “All law enforcement officers shall be properly trained and certified in the use of any less-lethal weapons before being authorized to carry or use such force options.”
- 2) 501 CMR 8.05(2) requires that, except for training purposes, officers shall not carry or use an ECW in the performance of their official duties until they have successfully completed an initial ECW qualification training program that:
 - a. is approved by the MPTC or MSP’s Colonel;
 - b. is no less than six hours;
 - c. fulfills the training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(1).

The initial ECW qualification training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(1) include at a minimum:

- 1) a review of the mechanics of an ECW;
- 2) illustration of the medical issues involved with the use of an ECW including, but not limited to, information regarding the effects of ECWs on individuals with pre-existing medical and other conditions and information on and a demonstration regarding the removal of probes from an individual after an ECW has been discharged;
- 3) segments on weapon proficiency for trainees, including a demonstration on the accurate discharge

- of an ECW, practice discharge of an ECW by trainees, exercises wherein the trainee practices transitioning to and from an ECW, and scenario exercises involving ECWs;
- 4) a segment on the use of an ECW as a force option and an overview of the law enforcement agency's policies and the ECW's relation to other weapons, tools, and tactics within the law enforcement agency's use of force policy; and
 - 5) testing to demonstrate knowledge of protocols, use, and effects of ECWs.

Initial ECW qualification training may be done in conjunction with or separate from an ECW manufacturer's initial certification training requirements.

For the training year in which authorized officers complete their initial ECW qualification training, they do not need to complete annual ECW requalification training. Annual ECW requalification training commences in the training year after completion of initial ECW qualification training.

c. ANNUAL ECW REQUALIFICATION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

After completing an initial ECW qualification training program approved by either the MPTC or MSP's Colonel, all authorized officers must thereafter successfully complete an annual ECW requalification training program each training year (commencing July 1st) that:

- 1) is approved by the MPTC or MSP's Colonel;
- 2) is no less than four hours;
- 3) fulfills the training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2).

The annual ECW requalification training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2) include at a minimum:

- 1) a review of the law enforcement agency's use of force policy and other policies and procedures related to ECWs;
- 2) updates regarding the ECW they are authorized to carry;
- 3) testing to demonstrate knowledge of policies, protocols, use, and effects of ECWs; and
- 4) a demonstration of proficiency with the ECW model they are authorized to carry.

Authorized officers must requalify each training year with the ECW model that they are authorized to carry and deploy during that training year.

Annual ECW requalification training must take place at least once per training year but can be required by an agency more than once per year.

The duration of annual ECW requalification training may vary based on logistical variables such as the number of instructors available, the number of officers being trained, and/or a facility's capacity. Regardless of variables, each agency is responsible for ensuring the annual four (4) hour ECW requalification training block fulfills the requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2).

Annual ECW requalification training may be done in conjunction with or separate from an ECW manufacturer's recertification training requirements.

d. ECW MANUFACTURER CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

An ECW manufacturer may require authorized officers to complete ECW "certification" and "recertification" training that utilizes the manufacturer's certified instructors and training criteria. Manufacturer certification/recertification periods can and do differ from the MPTC's training year and the annual ECW requalification training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2).

An authorized officer whose certification/recertification is valid, but who has not fulfilled annual ECW requalification training during the training year, is not in compliance with 501 CMR 8.06(2).

Example: Axon's taser user certification/recertification is valid for "one calendar year" from the date of the class. According to Axon, a taser certification/recertification obtained on March 11, 2025, remains valid through December 31, 2026. However, an authorized officer who relied solely on their valid Axon taser certification/recertification training would have missed ECW requalification training in TY2026 (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026), which is required by the MPTC and 501 CMR 8.06(2).

Agencies are responsible for ensuring their authorized officers are in full compliance with both the ECW certification/recertification training requirements of the manufacturer and the ECW qualification/requalification training requirements of the MPTC and 501 CMR 8.06(2).

e. **MPTC-CERTIFIED ECW INSTRUCTORS**

All ECW qualification/requalification training must be taught by MPTC-certified ECW instructors who shall be recertified every two years and participate in an annual program update that includes a review of the *MPTC ECW Training Standards Policy*.

ECW instructor certification must be reported by the agency through the MPTC's ACADIS portal.

MPTC-certified ECW instructors are not exempt from the requirement of successfully completing annual ECW requalification training. They must successfully complete annual ECW requalification training or submit an attestation to the MPTC that they have taught annual ECW requalification training in the applicable training year and, during the course of that instruction, fulfilled all training requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2).

MPTC-certified ECW instructors shall read, acknowledge, and comply with the *Code of Conduct for Instructors Certified by MPTC*.

f. **QUALIFICATION/REQUALIFICATION REPORTING**

ECW qualification/requalification training is in addition to the forty hours of MPTC annual in-service training that authorized officers are required to complete and report to the MPTC each training year.

All initial ECW qualification training required by 501 CMR 8.06(1) must be reported by the authorized officer's agency to the MPTC no later than June 30th of the training year in which it was completed. The training shall be reported through the MPTC's on-line ACADIS training portal using the attached Initial ECW Qualification Training Attestation. The name and signature of the instructor and the date they conducted the training must be included on the Attestation.

All annual ECW requalification training required by 501 CMR 8.06(2) must be reported by the authorized officer's agency to the MPTC no later than June 30th of the training year in which it was completed. The training shall be reported through the MPTC's on-line ACADIS training portal using the attached Annual ECW Requalification Training Attestation. The name and signature of the instructor and the date they conducted the training must be included on the Attestation.

g. **RECORD RETENTION**

Each *Operator Certification Form* required by an ECW manufacturer in connection with the certification/recertification of an authorized officer, and each *Attestation Form* and roster required by the MPTC in connection with the qualification/requalification of an authorized officer, shall be retained by the authorized officer's agency for no less than the length of time required by the agency's record retention schedule. Any agency that does not have a record retention schedule shall maintain such records for no less than ten years from the date the training was conducted.

h. **ADDITIONAL ECW TRAINING**

The *MPTC ECW Training Standards Policy* sets a baseline for ECW training. Nothing herein should be construed as restricting agencies and/or officers from exceeding these standards.

Municipal Police Training Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Rathbun".

Colonel Rick Rathbun (ret.)
Executive Director



Initial ECW Qualification Training Attestation Form

I am an MPTC-certified ECW instructor and attest that the authorized officer(s) on the attached roster I am submitting have successfully completed no less than six hours of initial electronic control weapon (“ECW”) qualification training which at a minimum fulfills the following requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(1):

- 1) a review of the mechanics of an ECW;
- 2) illustration of the medical issues involved with the use of an ECW including, but not limited to, information regarding the effects of ECWs on individuals with pre-existing medical and other conditions and information on and a demonstration regarding the removal of probes from an individual after an ECW has been discharged;
- 3) segments on weapon proficiency for trainees, including a demonstration on the accurate discharge of an ECW, practice discharge of an ECW by trainees, exercises wherein the trainee practices transitioning to and from an ECW, and scenario exercises involving ECWs;
- 4) a segment on the use of an ECW as a force option and an overview of their law enforcement agency’s policies and the ECW's relation to other weapons, tools, and tactics within their law enforcement agency's use of force policy;
- 5) testing to demonstrate knowledge of protocols, use, and effects of ECWs.

Name: _____
(printed name of MPTC-Certified ECW Instructor)

Signed: _____
(signature of MPTC-Certified ECW Instructor)

Date: _____
(month/day/year of training)



Annual ECW Regualification Training Attestation Form

I am an MPTC-certified ECW instructor and attest that the authorized officer(s) on the attached roster I am submitting have successfully completed no less than four hours of annual electronic control weapon (“ECW”) requalification training which at a minimum fulfills the following requirements of 501 CMR 8.06(2):

- 1) a review of their law enforcement agency's use of force policy and other policies and procedures related to ECWs;
- 2) updates regarding the ECW they are authorized to carry;
- 3) testing to demonstrate knowledge of policies, protocols, use, and effects of ECWs;
- 4) a demonstration of proficiency with the ECW model they are authorized to carry.

Name: _____
(printed name of MPTC-Certified ECW Instructor)

Signed: _____
(signature of MPTC-Certified ECW Instructor)

Date: _____
(month/day/year of training)