



[Home](#) > [Community Policing](#) > [Conducted Energy Weapon](#) > Operational Manual - Conducted Energy Weapon

Operational Manual - Conducted Energy Weapon

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1. General

1. 1. Only the Advanced Taser M26 (model 44000) and Taser X26E (Law Enforcement) (model 26012) conducted energy weapons (CEW) are approved for RCMP operational use as an intervention option to control individuals and avert injury to members and the public.

NOTE: As any Taser M26 reaches its life expectancy, it will be replaced by a Taser X26E. No new Taser M26 will be purchased.

1. 2. The fluorescent yellow stickers on the CEW are intended to differentiate it from the pistol and must not be removed or altered under any circumstance.

1. 3. Only trained members and certified instructors who have successfully completed the CEW User Course (HRMIS Code 000028) or the CEW Instructor Course (HRMIS Code 000029) are permitted to use (see sec. 2.6.) the CEW operationally.

NOTE: Candidates participating in the CEW User Course, CEW Instructors Course or the Cadet Training Program may handle/use the CEW under the supervision of an instructor as prescribed by course material.

1. 4. Members certified to operate the CEW must re-qualify annually.

1. 5. Member CEW training and re-certification must be documented on HRMIS.

2. Definitions

2. 1. **Data download** means retrieving information, recorded and stored in the Taser M26 or Taser X26E about its deployment, through the data port-function by connecting the data port to a computer. A data download provides information about CEW usage which can be valuable to an investigation.

2. 2. **Operational cartridge** means an RCMP-approved cartridge for operational use and training, except scenario-based training.

2. 3. **Probe mode** means deploying an activated CEW by discharging and propelling two electrical probes, equipped with small barbs that hook onto a person's clothing or skin, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that person.

2. 4. **Push stun mode** means pressing or pushing an activated CEW onto designated push/stun locations on an individual, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that individual.

see also:

[Chapter 17.7.1 - Approved Holsters](#)

[Chapter 17.7.2 -- Taser Model M26 Battery-Charging Method](#)

2. 5. **Training cartridge** means the RCMP-approved blue simulation air cartridge for scenario-based training.

2. 6. **Use of the CEW** means:

2. 6. 1. when a CEW is activated; or

2. 6. 2. when the CEW is drawn from its holster (activated or not) or the reference of its use is made in gaining control of a situation.

3. **Deployment**

3. 1. **General**

3. 1. 1. The CEW must only be used in accordance with CEW training, the principles of the Incident Management/Intervention Model (IM/IM) and in response to a threat to officer or public safety as determined by a member's assessment of the totality of the circumstances being encountered. See also ch. 17.1.

NOTE: Members' actions must be reasonable and the force used must be necessary in the circumstances. Members must properly report and articulate their actions. Supervisors/managers will ensure all reporting requirements are complied with and appropriately evaluate all interventions to ensure compliance with RCMP directives and policies.

3. 1. 2. All members must recognize that any use of force entails risk.

3. 1. 3. Multiple deployment or continuous cycling of the CEW may be hazardous to a subject.

3. 1. 4. Acutely agitated or delirious persons may be at a high risk of death. If an individual is in an acutely agitated or delirious state, and whenever possible when responding to reports of violent individuals, request the assistance of emergency medical services. If possible bring medical assistance to the scene.

3. 1. 5. Members should make every effort to take control of the subject as soon as possible following deployment of a CEW, and if possible during the CEW deployment.

NOTE: The CEW is not intended as a restraint device.

3. 1. 6. For cold-weather limitations for model M26, see sec. 7.3., if deemed appropriate, see ch. 19.2.

4. **Voluntary Exposure**

4. 1. Only candidates taking the CEW User Course or the CEW Instructor Course or the Cadet Training Program are permitted to participate in the CEW Voluntary Exposure Exercise. Any such exposure is to be done under the direct supervision of an RCMP CEW Instructor.

NOTE: Do not permit any member of the public to participate in a CEW voluntary exposure exercise.

5. **Deployment Aftercare**

5. 1. Advise the individual that he/she has been subjected to a CEW deployment, and that the effects should be short term.

5. 2. Ensure the individual receives medical assistance if the individual has any apparent injuries requiring medical treatment, the individual is in distress, or the individual requests medical assistance. See ch. 19.2. for policy related to assessing responsiveness/medical assistance.

5. 3. A member currently certified in first aid may remove the probes following the deployment of a CEW in probe mode, unless a probe is lodged in a sensitive part of the body, such as the eye or the groin, or the individual's condition warrants medical attention. See sec. 5.2.

5. 4. Remove the probe from an individual in a manner that least interferes with the privacy and dignity of that individual, ensuring the safety of the member and the individual.

5. 5. If a medical or physical affliction or injury is claimed or observed, to the best of your ability:

5. 5. 1. Make note of any injury or affliction that you observe, and any injury or affliction described by the individual.

5. 5. 2. Photograph the injury or afflicted area as observed, or the area of the injury or affliction as described by the individual.

5. 5. 3. If feasible, request a statement relative to any injury or affliction from the individual.

6. Reporting and Accountability

6. 1. General

6. 1. 1. As soon as practicable each time the CEW is used, notify your supervisor.

6. 1. 2. Record on the investigative file any medical or physical affliction or injuries.

6. 1. 3. Complete form 3996 before the end of shift every time the CEW is used (see sec. 2.6.), and place a completed copy on the operational file.

6. 1. 4. Where applicable, follow division reporting directives.

6. 1. 5. For additional reporting requirements, see OSM ch. 3.

6. 2. Supervisor

6. 2. 1. Ensure members submit form 3996. Review forms for quality assurance as soon as possible.

6. 2. 2. To make changes or additions after submission of form 3996, resubmit the form in its entirety. The system will automatically purge the old form and replace it with the new one. Place a copy of the revised form on the operational file in addition to the original form to ensure changes are tracked.

6. 3. Commander

6. 3. 1. Ensure that members under your command are aware of the directives in this chapter.

6. 3. 2. Ensure the original CEW package received contains one CEW, fully charged Digital Power Magazine (DPM), one instruction book, one DVD, and one holster (Blade Tech Tek-Lok - for plain clothes use only).

NOTE: Approved holsters for uniform and ERT must be ordered separately, see [App. 17-7-1](#).

6. 3. 3. Maintain a control log for each CEW assigned to the unit by recording the time, date and name of each member who has a CEW.

6. 3. 4. Keep an adequate supply of CEWs, RCMP-approved holsters, CEW operational cartridges and replacement batteries/DPMs on hand.

6. 4. **Division**

6. 4. 1. Ensure that commanders as well as Divisional Use of Force Coordinators or their delegate review all forms 3996 as soon as possible after they are completed for adherence to directives and policy.

6. 4. 2. Follow divisional internal processes and reporting structures to ensure that any matter associated to CEW usage is resolved, including referral to division Professional Standards when appropriate, if an issue is identified during the review.

6. 5. **National Criminal Operations Branch**

6. 5. 1. Review all forms 3996 as soon as practicable after they are completed to ensure consistency with national directives and policy.

6. 5. 2. If an issue is identified during the review process, notify respective divisional Criminal Operational Branch.

6. 5. 3. Complete annual internal audit on CEW Database.

6. 5. 4. Complete quarterly and annual reports on CEW use.

6. 6. **Chief Information Office (CIO)**

6. 6. 1. Appropriately maintain and manage the CEW National Database for the National Criminal Operations Branch.

6. 6. 2. Immediately report any issue associated to the CEW National Database to the National Criminal Operations Branch.

7. **Maintenance and Control**

7. 1. **General**

7. 1. 1. The CEW is a prohibited firearm. The CEW and its cartridges must be secured in accordance with the [Public Agents Firearms Regulations](#).

- 7. 1. 2. A member operating a CEW must safely dispose of spent cartridges.
- 7. 1. 3. Spent probes will be placed in a biomedical waste container.
- 7. 1. 4. The CEW must be carried in an RCMP-approved holster (see [App. 17-7-1](#)) on the member's non-dominant side, e.g. opposite the sidearm.
- 7. 1. 5. For use of the M26 in -20°C, see sec. 7.2.3.3.

7. 2. Batteries

7. 2. 1. Model X26E

- 7. 2. 1. 1. The X26E uses a model-specific, digital power magazine (XDPM).
- 7. 2. 1. 2. Replace the XDPM when the percentage life reads below 20% on the digital display.
- 7. 2. 1. 3. XDPMs below 20% may be used for training.
- 7. 2. 1. 4. Dispose of the XDPM when it drops to 1%.

CAUTION: Continued use at 0% may damage the CEW.

7. 2. 2. Model M26

- 7. 2. 2. 1. Given the specialized and particular power supply requirements for the M26, only RCMP-approved batteries are to be used. See sec. 7.2.5.1. See also [App. 17-7-2](#) for battery-charging method.
- 7. 2. 2. 2. On the M26, the battery indicator light is a simple "power indicator" light when used with NiMH batteries. A spark test is the only approved and reliable method to assess the state of the NiMH batteries and the functionality of the CEW.

7. 2. 3. Model M26 Precautions

- 7. 2. 3. 1. Ensure batteries are properly charged at all times, particularly during severely cold temperatures.
- 7. 2. 3. 2. Avoid exposing the M26 CEW to temperatures below -10°C for extended periods.
- 7. 2. 3. 3. At -20°C or below, when practicable, carry the CEW and cartridges in a warm area or under your storm coat.

7. 2. 4. Model M26 Battery Cooling Period

- 7. 2. 4. 1. Do not cycle the CEW more than 10 times consecutively. When the CEW is continuously re-cycled, a cooling-off period of 10 minutes must be allowed to prevent internal damage.

7. 2. 5. Model M26 Battery Care

7. 2. 5. 1. You can only use the following authorized AA batteries listed in order of preference: Taser International (Rechargeable NiMH 44700); and Eveready Energizer ACCU (Rechargeable NiMH in 2100 mA or more).

7. 2. 5. 2. Recharge CEW NiMH batteries when necessary. The NiMH batteries do not retain a full charge over time. When not used, NiMH batteries lose 1% or more of their charge each day at room temperature.

7. 2. 5. 3. Do not charge both the CEW and a separate battery pack at the same time on the same charger.

7. 2. 5. 4. To ensure that the CEW NiMH batteries are capable of accepting a full charge, CEW NiMH batteries must be conditioned when received and drained semiannually according to the manufacturer's instructions.

7. 2. 5. 5. Purchase these batteries through the authorized distributor of the manufacturer, M.D. Charlton, because of the unique construction of the battery and to meet the demands of the CEW. See [App. 17-7-2](#).

7. 2. 5. 6. Upon receipt of a new CEW and every six months thereafter, recharge the batteries three times consecutively. Remove the batteries or CEW from the charger when the green light indicates that the batteries are fully charged. Wait five seconds, then reinsert the batteries or CEW into the charger, and repeat a third time. Repeat these steps when the CEW batteries are drained or battery problems are experienced. See [App. 17-7-2](#).

7. 2. 5. 7. If battery problems persist after the batteries have been conditioned, first consider replacing the batteries if they are old. If the problem continues, however, return the CEW, the batteries and the charger to the Armourer for inspection/repairs.

7. 3. **Model M26 and Cartridges Cold-weather Limitations**

7. 3. 1. At -10° C or colder, the M26 may deploy improperly or not at all.

7. 3. 2. At or near -20° C, the following limitations have been observed:

7. 3. 2. 1. trigger is stiff and requires excessively hard pull to activate,

7. 3. 2. 2. reduced cycle rate,

7. 3. 2. 3. deployment range limited to 15' or 4.5 m maximum,

7. 3. 2. 4. one to two seconds delay in cartridge firing, and

7. 3. 2. 5. rapid transition from cold to warm areas may cause laser sight to frost.

7. 3. 3. The X26E does not have the same limitations as the M26.

7. 4. **Operational/Training Cartridges**

7. 4. 1. Operational Cartridges: TASER Standard Air Cartridge model 44200 with 21-foot filament - for operational use with both the M26 and X26E.

NOTE: This is a newer version of the currently approved TASER Standard Air Cartridge model

34222 which is no longer available for purchase. Model 34222 is still approved and will be phased out through attrition.

7. 4. 2. Training Cartridges: blue TASER simulation Air Cartridge model 44205 with a 21-foot, non-conductive nylon wire for use in RCMP scenario-based training. This training cartridge shall be purchased only by CEW instructors or Division Training Coordinators.

7. 4. 3. Monitor operational cartridges. They are marked with a five-year expiration date.

7. 4. 4. If the operational cartridge has not been deployed in five years, immediately replace it with a new operational cartridge.

7. 4. 5. You may use expired operational cartridges for training purposes, except for scenario-based training.

7. 4. 6. An operational cartridge should not be stored and carried in the extended DPM of the Taser Model X26E. Cartridges are to be stored in the cartridge carrier/holder provided on the holster.

7. 5. **Repair/Replacement**

7. 5. 1. In compliance with the *Canada Labour Code*, malfunctioning CEWs must be marked or tagged to indicate that they are faulty and be removed from service.

7. 5. 2. The supervisor will:

7. 5. 2. 1. ensure faulty or malfunctioning CEWs are removed from service, are properly tagged and immediately sent to a qualified person designated by the Cr. Ops. Officer to conduct CEW data downloading. See shipping procedures in FM ch. 6.4.4.

7. 5. 2. 2. after the download is complete, ensure the CEW is returned to the Senior Armourer, "Depot" Division for repair or replacement. See FM ch. 6.4.

7. 5. 3. If the CEW is being shipped for independent testing as part of an investigation, follow the same shipping procedures. See FM ch. 6.4.4.

8. **Data Downloads**

8. 1. **General**

8. 1. 1. The following individuals are qualified to conduct CEW downloads: CEW Instructor Trainers, the RCMP Armourer, and any other qualified person designated by the Cr. Ops. Officer.

8. 1. 2. Follow the same shipping process (see FM ch. 6.4.4.) if the CEW is being shipped specifically for a data download for an investigation about CEW usage or yearly storage of data and resetting of the internal clock to Greenwich Mean Time.

8. 2. **Division**

8. 2. 1. Develop a system for downloading and storing the data from all CEWs in your division a minimum of once a year.

8. 2. 2. Ensure the CEW's internal clock is reset to the correct Greenwich Mean Time at least once a year.

9. Independent CEW Testing

9. 1. Independent testing of a CEW at a designated testing facility will be completed when:

9. 1. 1. an incident involves injury requiring medical treatment or death proximal to the use of a CEW;

9. 1. 2. a CEW was ineffective or malfunctioned; or

9. 1. 3. a supervisor of an incident, a Divisional Use of Force Coordinator, a Criminal Operations Officer, the National Use of Force Officer, or National Criminal Operations Branch is of the opinion that testing is warranted in the circumstances, including in order to address any concerns about the performance of a CEW or the circumstances or impacts of its use.

9. 2. Testing of the CEW will determine the working state of the CEW and if the weapon is functioning as per the manufacturer's specifications.

9. 3. The CEW must be packaged and shipped in accordance with FM ch. 6.4.4. to the address provided by NCROPS.

9. 4. Division

9. 4. 1. Testing will be conducted at division expense.

9. 4. 2. Divisional CROPS are to contact the DG NCROPS for the designated testing facility.

References

- Morrison, A., & Sadler, D. (2001). Death of a psychiatric patient during physical restraint.
- British Columbia: Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner, TASER Technology Review - Final Report, File number 2474, April 2005.
- Manojlovic et al (for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - August 22, 2005). Review of Conducted Energy Devices - Canadian Police Research Center, Technical Report, TR-01-2006.
- [Criminal Code](#)

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