



HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPERATIONS POLICY

Safety Equipment Repair Orders

Distribution:	All Law Enforcement Personnel			Policy Number:	OPS 0906
Responsible Unit:	Special Operations Division			Rescinds:	N/A
Original Issued Date:	01/01/18	Revision #:	1	Latest Revision Date:	06/26/26
Required 3-year review was completed:		04/01/26	Next Required 3-yr Review Due:		04/30/29

1. Purpose

To provide guidance to deputies for issuing a Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).

2. Policy

Deputies may issue an SERO for vehicle equipment violations to motor vehicles permanently registered in Maryland.

3. References

MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. §23–104.
MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. §23–105.
MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. §24–106.1.

4. Procedures

A. Authority and Issuance

1. The Maryland Code Annotated, Transportation Article (TRANSP.) §23–105, authorizes any police officer in the State to issue a SERO to any vehicle registered in Maryland that does not meet the minimum equipment standards outlined in TRANSP. §23–104 or TRANSP. §24–106.1(e).1.
2. When a Maryland-registered motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer is stopped for apparent defective equipment, a SERO shall be issued for such defects, unless the vehicle is operated using an interchangeable Maryland registration (e.g., dealer, special mobile equipment), temporary registration, historic registration (and the vehicle year is 1985 or older), or mobile home registration.
3. Under TRANSP. §23–105, deputies are required to stop and issue a SERO for defective equipment.
 - i. Deputies shall issue either a handwritten SERO or an electronic SERO (E-SERO) if authorized to use the E-TIX software.
 - ii. Deputies cannot issue a warning for most repairs under TRANSP. §23–105 with the exception for a vehicle with an improper cover, as detailed in the statute. For all other repairs, deputies cannot issue a warning and must issue a SERO.
4. Additional guidance for the issuance of SEROs may be obtained from the Maryland State Police Automotive Safety Enforcement Division (ASED).

5. If the ETIX system is operational, and the deputy is authorized to use ETIX, the issuance of an electronic SERO is the preferred method.

B. Distribution

1. Handwritten SEROs

- a. COPY #1 will be forwarded daily to ASERD by the Traffic Unit.
- b. COPY #2 will be retained by the deputy unless local policies dictate otherwise.
- c. COPY #3 and COPY #4 will be issued to the violator.

2. E-SEROs

- a. E-SEROs will be completed using E-TIX in conformance with the training provided.
- b. If a deputy is unable to print an E-SERO, he will follow the same procedures used for citations; a duplicate handwritten SERO will not be issued.

C. Inspection and Sign-Off

1. Inspection of items not followed by an asterisk, including tint violations, can only be certified by an authorized inspection station.
2. If all of the defects identified on the SERO are followed by an asterisk indicating that the repair can be visually inspected, the owner may take the vehicle to an authorized inspection station or choose to have the repair certified at any HCSO location, sworn law enforcement deputy, or a participating police department.
3. Inspections for defects involving commercial motor vehicles over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight will only be certified by Maryland State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division personnel at a scale house during normal business hours.

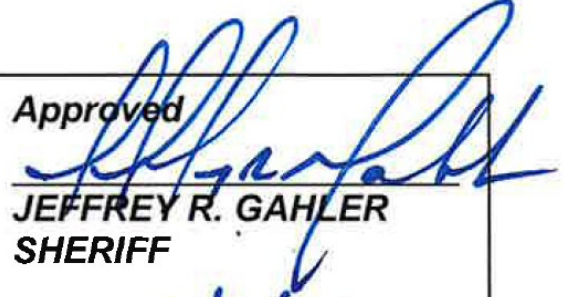
D. Duplicate Repair Orders

1. If a vehicle owner has lost or misplaced the original hand-written copy, a duplicate may be issued by the Maryland State Police (MSP) utilizing form MSP 23-64; deputies will refer the owner to the nearest MSP barrack.
2. If a vehicle owner has lost or misplaced the original electronic ETIX copy, a duplicate may be issued by printing from E-TIX.

5. Summary of Changes

- A. On 07/31/23 a three-year review was conducted, and no changes were made.
- B. On 7/7/25 a three-year review was conducted, and no changes were made.
- C. On 04/01/26 the three-year Agency review was conducted, and no changes were made.

- D. On 06/26/26 the following additional text was included under Section 4.A.2 Authority and Issuance:
1. Under TRANSP. §23–105, deputies are required to stop and issue a SERO for defective equipment.
 2. Deputies cannot issue a warning for most repairs under TRANSP. §23–105 with the exception for a vehicle with an improper cover, as detailed in the statute. For all other repairs, deputies cannot issue a warning and must issue a SERO.

Approved

JEFFREY R. GAHLER
SHERIFF
DATE 7/3/26