*Office of Enforcement & Removal Operations*

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
500 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

September 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: All ERO Employees

FROM: Marcos D. Charles
Executive Associate Director

SUBJECT: Vehicle Stops

This memorandum amends, Part 3, Conducting Operations – Vehicle Stops, found in the Fugitive Operations Handbook dated October 30, 2018. This memorandum supersedes the August 15, 2025, broadcast guidance from the Assistant Director for the Enforcement Division titled "Addition to the Fugitive Operations Handbook Regarding Vehicle Stop Training", and the July 22, 2026, broadcast guidance from the Office of the Executive Associate Director (EAD) titled "ERO Initiated Vehicle Stops."

FODs must ensure the vehicles used for vehicle stops are properly equipped with lights and sirens to ensure the safety of ICE officers conducting the vehicle stops (e.g., that the emergency lighting package is sufficient to ensure the safety of the ICE officers engaged in vehicle stops, the ability recognize the vehicle as a law enforcement vehicle when activated).[1]

Additionally, all officers on scene must have an agency-issued and activated body worn camera.

## TRADITIONAL VEHICLE STOPS AND CALL-BACK VEHICLE STOPS

Effective immediately, only Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers who have successfully completed one of the below U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) training courses are permitted to conduct traditional vehicle stops, and call-back vehicle stops commonly known as high-risk or felony vehicle stops:

- Fugitive Operations Training Program (FOTP)

[1] Individual states may, however, have specific requirements to obtain a confidential license plate for a government vehicle. This memorandum does not address the issue of confidential license plates, and Field Office Directors should consult with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, regarding the jurisdiction-specific requirements for the same.

- Advanced Field Operations Training Program (AFOTP)
- Basic Immigration Enforcement Training Program (BIETP)
- Special Response Team Basic Operator Course (SRT BOC)
- ICE Vehicle Stop training provided by an instructor who graduated from the Vehicle Stop Instructor Training (VSIT) course.
- Any future agency-provided training approved by the ERO EAD or his or her designee.

ERO officers who have not successfully completed one of these training courses may participate only in a support capacity (e.g., a passenger of the vehicle conducting the vehicle stop) during vehicle stops and are not permitted to be the driver of a primary or secondary vehicle conducting the vehicle stop.

## VEHICLE STOPS INVOLVING THE PINNING OF A VEHICLE AND USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

ERO officers may pin a vehicle for the safety of the suspect vehicle and its occupants, the ICE officers engaged in vehicle stops, and other motorists on the roadway. The act of pinning a vehicle means using a vehicle or physical barrier to trap or stop a car. This technique may only be performed by ERO officers who have successfully completed the following ICE training courses:

- Special Response Team Basic Operator Course (SRT BOC)
- ICE Vehicle Stop training provided by an instructor who graduated from the Vehicle Stop Instructor Training (VSIT) course.
- Any future agency-provided training approved by the ERO EAD or his or her designee.

ERO officers who have not successfully completed one of these training courses may participate only in a support capacity (e.g., a passenger of the vehicle conducting the vehicle stop) during pinning vehicle stops and are not permitted to be the driver of a primary or secondary vehicle conducting the vehicle stop.

## USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

ERO officers may use agency-issued tire deflation devices to prevent a vehicle stopped by ICE from fleeing for the safety of the suspect vehicle and its occupants, the ICE officers engaged in vehicle stops, and other motorists on the roadway. This technique may only be performed by ERO officers who have successfully completed the following ICE training courses:

- ICE Vehicle Stop training provided by an instructor who graduated from the Vehicle Stop Instructor Training (VSIT) course.
- Any future agency-provided training approved by the ERO EAD or his or designee.

ERO officers who have not successfully completed this training course cannot deploy tire deflation devices but may perform support functions for ERO officers who have.