



**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION**  
**AGENTS MANUAL**  
**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION**  
**BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM**  
**6125**

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Appendix A: Memorandum from Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, *Body-Worn Camera Policy*, June 7, 2021

Appendix B: DEA BWC Categories and Retention Schedule

Appendix C: List of Acronyms Used

## 6125.1 DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

- A. The Department of Justice (Department/DOJ) recognizes the importance of transparency and accountability in its law enforcement operations. While the Department’s law enforcement components do not regularly conduct public patrols and do not routinely engage with the public in response to emergency calls, there are nevertheless circumstances where the use of force may occur during pre-planned law enforcement operations. The Department is committed to the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by DOJ law enforcement agents in such circumstances.

On June 7, 2021, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Lisa Monaco directed the Department’s law enforcement components including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to issue BWC policies that require agents to wear and activate BWC recording equipment for purposes of recording their actions during: (1) a pre-planned attempt to serve an arrest warrant or other pre-planned arrest, including the apprehension of fugitives sought on state and local warrants; or (2) the execution of a search or seizure warrant or order. Further, the DAG directed that “[e]ach law enforcement component shall develop its policy and a phased implementation plan for compliance with the above directive[,] including procedures governing the use of BWCs by all members of Department-sponsored task forces.” See Appendix A, Memorandum from Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, Body-Worn Camera Policy, June 7, 2021.

DEA has issued this policy to meet this mandate and to govern use of DEA-issued BWCs by DEA Special Agents (SA) and Task Force Officers (TFO), and the use of parent-agency-issued BWCs by TFOs, during a phased implementation of a nationwide DEA BWC program. This policy also governs use of parent-agency-issued BWCs by TFOs, and use of BWCs by non-deputized state and local officers assisting DEA.

- B. This policy supersedes the Interim Policy for the Drug Enforcement Administration Body-Worn Camera Program.

## 6125.2 DEFINITIONS

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Activation or Activate</b>	Putting the BWC in Recording (Event) mode.
<b>Body-Worn Camera (BWC)</b>	Overt mobile audio- and video-capture device issued to an SA or TFO to be worn by the SA or TFO in accordance with this policy. DEA utilizes Axon BWCs.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Buffering or Pre-Event Buffering</b>	The duration of time the BWC preserves video recordings while in the “Ready” mode prior to activation of the BWC in the Recording mode. DEA has configured BWCs to preserve recorded video only (no audio) for 30 seconds prior to activating the BWC to Recording (Event) mode.
<b>BWC Evidence</b>	BWC recordings of operational, enforcement, or investigative activities, including recordings made in the presence of a prisoner or detained person.
<b>BWC Recordings</b>	For purposes of this policy, refers to audio and video recordings, and associated metadata from BWCs used by SAs and TFOs.
<b>BWC System</b>	The BWC, and all associated equipment, networks, and digital evidence management software, including storage of recordings in an Axon cloud server.
<b>BWC System Administrator</b>	A DEA employee who has been granted full access and data management rights within the BWC data storage system.
<b>Case-Specific Deputization</b>	Short-term Title 21 deputizations granted to state/local officers for investigations that are finite in scope or that involve activities related to a specific case. <i>See Agents Manual (AM), § 6331.62.</i>
<b>Critical Incident</b>	A shooting incident, physical assault, or any other reportable incident which involves serious bodily injury or death; or that otherwise can result in the filing of criminal charges against any person, and/or have significant potential to result in civil liability, adverse publicity, or political reaction. <i>AM § 6114.2(F).</i>
<b>Deadly Force</b>	Physical force, which under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. <i>AM § 6114.2(G).</i>
<b>DEA Personnel</b>	DEA employees, deputized TFOs, and contractor employees.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Duplicate</b>	“A ‘duplicate’ means a counterpart produced by a mechanical, photographic, chemical, electronic, or other equivalent process or technique that accurately produces the original.” Fed. R. Evid. Rule 1001(e).
<b>Emergency Deputization</b>	Deputization in emergency situations in which state/local officers must be immediately deputized due to the fluid nature of an ongoing investigation. Emergency deputizations can be provided on a case-by-case basis, but only in rare circumstances. See AM § <u>6331.65</u> .
<b>Evidence.com</b>	Axon’s secure website platform used by DEA to store and manage BWC recordings.
<b>Metadata</b>	Data entered into or generated by the BWC System that provides context or additional information about BWC recordings.
<b>Parent Agency</b>	The state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency employing a deputized TFO.
<b>Physical Assault</b>	The striking, beating, or wounding of DEA personnel (on- or off-duty), confidential sources; or other Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) working in a joint investigation and/or law enforcement operation with DEA. <u>AM § 6114.2(L)</u> .
<b>Ready (Buffering) Mode</b>	Turning the BWC on and starting pre-event buffering.
<b>Recording (Event) Mode</b>	Event recording mode on BWC. While in this mode, the BWC will record both audio and video.
<b>Redaction</b>	The process of obscuring images, audio portions, and/or metadata, of a BWC recording for legal, security, or privacy purposes prior to its release or dissemination.

