Emitter sends a beam of light to receiver; this is the sensor’s default state

Paper is placed in feeding tray

Paper is pushed through baffles by drive rolls, and breaks the emitted beam’s contact with the receiver

Lack of a continued signal from the emitter starts a timer in the receiver, counting the time it is cut off from the signal

When the paper clears the sensor, the beam’s contact is restored and the timer stops counting

Knowing the length of the paper (input at start) and the time it took to travel that distance, velocity can then be determined via a simple calculation

Paper’s size is input into the machine at the same time as the paper