



OVERVIEW

Youth ages 14-15 must successfully completing all three exams to be eligible to be certified for HOOAs exemption under the GEARING UP FOR SAFETY testing process. Research conducted while constructing each of the three exams for the GEARING UP FOR SAFETY testing process has shown that not all youth who take the exams achieve the minimum passing score. As an instructor you should be prepared to acknowledge that some participants will be unsuccessful at passing, one or more, of the exams. Plans should be made to allow participants an opportunity to re-test a component that he or she may have trouble passing. Re-testing procedures may vary widely due to availability of resources and are the responsibility of the instructor to properly set up and conduct. Any participant unable to pass any exam should be required to wait an amount of time sufficient to allow additional study before being allowed to re-take an exam. Depending on how often original exam days occur, participants not passing any section of the testing process may wait until the next exam session to re-take an exam. In some cases where the number of participants is low, re-testing will probably be done on an individual basis.

Dealing with a student who has not passed any portion of the testing process needs to involve all stake holders including the youth, his or her parents/guardians, the instructor and/or program leader (Extension Educator or Agricultural Educator). In some cases the solution may be to complete additional study or training, participate in remedial independent study, or wait until he or she has gained greater cognitive and physical maturity. Putting a young person into a hazardous worksite, who has not demonstrated the appropriate cognitive and performance-based competencies will place him or her at considerable risk of injury.

Written Exam

Participants unable to pass the Written Exam should pursue additional study, including use of the online GEARING UP FOR SAFETY student resources, before attempting to re-take the exam. Date of re-testing is left up to the instructor but should allow sufficient time for the participant to adequately study. After determining a

re-test date, the instructor should consider using a new exam or it is possible to reuse the exam provided. A new exam can be prepared by visiting the GEARING UP FOR SAFETY website (www.agsafety4youth.info) and assembling a new exam from the test question pool (you must be a certified instructor to gain access to this site). Upon successful completion of the Written Exam, instructors should determine the best method of administering the next two stages of testing if the participant(s) will not be part of the main testing process. Again, the exams can be administered on an individual basis.

Pre-Operational Exam

Reasons for participants unsuccessfully completing the Pre-operational Exam may vary. Youth may not be physically compatible with the tractor and would simply need to wait a period of time to physically mature in order to reach all essential controls properly. Information on the remainder of the exam can be studied for re-testing at a later date. Instructors should review items on the exam that the participant answered or performed incorrectly to give him or her an idea of areas that need more study. Instructors should realize that to re-administer the Pre-operational Exam they will need to reassemble all the needed equipment (i.e. tractor) to administer the exam properly.

Operational Exam

Participants who do not successfully pass the Operational Exam have accumulated enough mistakes (infractions) to exceed the maximum number allowed in the scoring process. This situation is a strong indicator that the participant lacks certain skills to be a successful and safe tractor operator. If a participant doesn't pass the exam the instructor should review the results with him or her and discuss problem areas identified during the exam. This will allow participants to practice weaker operational skills before attempting to re-take the exam at a later date. The re-test date is left up to the instructor but should allow sufficient time for the participant to practice their operational skills. Instructors should realize that to re-administer the Operational Exam, they will need to again set up the course and assemble all needed supplies in order to conduct the exam properly.

SUMMARY

Remember, your role as an instructor does not include being a “**rubber stamp**” for youth seeking an exemption under the HOOAs. Doing so does a serious disservice to the youth and any potential employer. In some cases, there will be youth who will be unable to meet the minimum requirements for certification and there will be a need to provide clear justifications for them not receiving certification. Not issuing a certificate to a youth unprepared to operate equipment or perform other allowable tasks is not a failure of the program, but rather a desired outcome designed to protect the participants from the potential of future injury.