571—12.35(321G) Snow groomer operator education program.

12.35(1) The department has developed a program to educate snow groomer operators to meet the statutory requirement of Iowa Code section 321G.2.

12.35(2) The snow groomer operator education program includes review of the department's policies and procedures, course materials, operator certification requirements, paperwork requirements, and the department's equipment agreement and completion of an apprenticeship.

12.35(3) The following criteria apply to the snow groomer operator education program:

a. An operator must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver's license.

b. Operators shall agree to follow all policies and procedures as set forth by the department.

12.35(4) A student who wishes to become a certified operator must complete an apprenticeship. A student must operate the equipment under the direct supervision of a certified operator until the certified operator is confident that the student can successfully operate the equipment. Operation of snow grooming equipment is allowed only by certified operators or by an apprentice under direct supervision of a certified snow groomer operator. Proof of certification must be in the snow groomer operator's possession when the equipment is being operated.

12.35(5) Certified operators must attend a recertification course once every three years to maintain their certification.

12.35(6) The department may revoke an operator's certification if it finds that equipment was used or maintained in violation of the equipment agreement, that there are founded cases of misuse of the equipment, or that an operator does not possess a valid driver's license.

[**ARC 7890C**, IAB 5/1/24, effective 6/5/24]