

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 as detailed in subrule 12.23(2).

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 Iowa driver's license in order to be certified to operate a piece of snow grooming equipment.

b. The cost of the course is \$10 per student. Payment may be made when the student registers for the course or to the instructor at the time of class. Payment shall be made by check or money order made payable to the DNR. Course fees are nonrefundable.

c. Students must use the DNR online training registration and tracking system to register for classes unless Internet access is unavailable. Students who do not have access to the Internet, which includes access through a public option such as a school or library, may contact the program coordinator, a department district office, the system administrator, or an instructor to set up a student account and register for the class. Assistance may be found by calling (515)281-5918.

d. Operators shall agree to follow all policies and procedures as set forth by the department and sign an acknowledgment form for these policies and procedures and file it with the department. The operator is ineligible to begin operating equipment, including during the apprenticeship training, until the acknowledgment form is signed and on file with the department.

12.35(4) A student who wishes to become a certified operator must complete an apprenticeship to receive the student's certification card. 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 independent of assistance. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship, the certified instructor will notify the program coordinator that the certification card can be issued. Operation of snow grooming equipment is allowed only by someone with a department-issued certification card or by an apprentice under direct supervision of a certified snow groomer operator. The certification card must be in the certified 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 in place for the equipment, that there are founded cases of misuse of the equipment, or that an operator does not possess a valid driver's license issued by the Iowa department of transportation.