TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION
DRIVER/OPERATOR – PUMPER

Performance Standards Evaluation

Skill #7

DRIVING/OPERATING – Driving Vehicle through Area With Restricted Horizontal and Vertical Clearances

PERFORMANCE STANDARD **Sections 700**

NFPA 1002, 4.3.5 **Driver/Operator**

OBJECTIVE

Maneuver a fire apparatus in areas with restricted horizontal and vertical clearances, given a fire apparatus and a course that requires the operator to move through areas of restricted horizontal and vertical clearances, so that the operator accurately judges the ability of the vehicle to pass through the openings and so that no obstructions are struck. (4.3.5)

INSTRUCTIONS - procedures for achieving the objective

Given a pumping apparatus and a specified course with horizontal and vertical clearances, the Driver/Operator-Pumper candidate shall maneuver a pumping apparatus so that the Driver/Operator-Pumper candidate accurately judges the ability of the vehicle to pass through the openings and so that no obstructions are struck.

EXAMINER'S NOTE

Performance Skills 4 through 7 may be conducted individually or in one continuous exercise. Each Performance Skill is to be graded independently, regardless of which way it is performed.

This exercise measures a driver's ability to steer the apparatus in a straight line, to judge distances from wheel to object, and to stop at a finish line. **The speed at which a driver should operate the apparatus is optional, but it should be great enough to necessitate quick judgment.** ~~The pumping apparatus should enter the course at a minimum speed of 20 mph and must maintain that speed until the front bumper exits the 8 ft. 2 in. portion of the diminishing clearance lane~~. ~~This exercise is to be performed both forward and in reverse with a spotter.~~ ~~There is no minimum speed for performing the backing portion of this exercise~~. The course for this exercise is created by arranging two rows of markers to form a lane 75 ft. (22.9 m.) long. The lane varies in width from 9 ft. 6 in. (2.9 m.) to a diminishing clearance of 8 ft. 2 in. (2.5 m.). The driver should maneuver the apparatus through this lane without touching the markers. The vehicle should be stopped at a finish line 50 ft. (15.24 m.) beyond the last marker. No portion of the vehicle should protrude beyond this line.

Vertical clearance judgment should be evaluated using a prop with a crossbar that is adjustable, based on the vehicle height. During the evaluation, the driver should drive forward and back through the prop with the crossbar at several differing heights, including

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one that is lower than the top of the vehicle. The prop should not be struck. The intent of the vertical clearance judgment is for proper identification of the furthermost point in the form of the apparatus. In situations where the apparatus is gaining entry to roadways or limited-height areas, the driver/operator must allow appropriate space ahead of the apparatus in order to avoid striking objects or to avoid extending apparatus into traffic lanes.

Note: For large vehicles, such as ARFF apparatus, this course might need to be modified.

PREPARATION & EQUIPMENT
Fire department pumping apparatus
Cones
Vertical clearance crossbar prop

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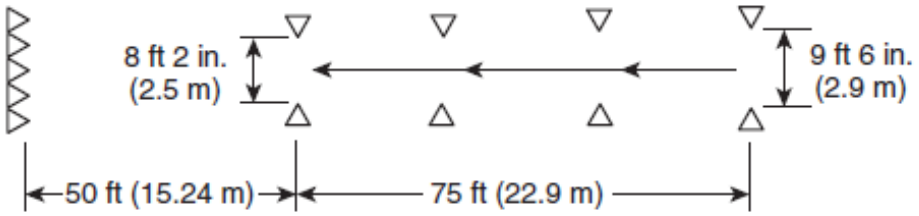
Candidate: _____ Notes: _____

Training Provider: _____ _____

Test Site: _____ _____

Examiner: _____ _____



Updated image above

Driver/Operator – Pumper	TEST		RETEST	
Skill Number 7	**S**	**U**	**S**	**U**
Maneuver a fire apparatus in areas with restricted horizontal and vertical clearances, given a fire apparatus and a course that requires the operator to move through areas of restricted horizontal and vertical clearances, so that the operator accurately judges the ability of the vehicle to pass through the openings and so that no obstructions are struck. (4.3.5)				
The candidate:	**S**	**U**	**S**	**U**
a) Wore seat belt and assured all passengers were secured				
b) Drove vehicle through required course ~~while maintaining minimum speed (20 mph)~~				
c) Did not strike an obstruction				
d) Correctly used mirrors				
e) Correctly judged vehicle clearance				
f) Performed skill in a safe and proficient manner				

S = Satisfactorily completed/performed
U = Unsatisfactorily performed/failed to meet objective or grading step

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Performance Standards Evaluation

Examiner/Candidate Comments:

_____

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All steps of the skill objective are mandatory and must be scored as "Satisfactory" to pass the skill.

_____ Certifying Examiner	_____ Date	Driver Skill Sheet Pass ☐ Fail ☐
_____ Re-Test Certifying Examiner	_____ Date	Driver Skill Sheet Re-Test Pass ☐ Fail ☐

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