

TITLE: Pilot of the Driving Performance Evaluation

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PROTECT OBJECTIVE:

To determine the consistency of the test examiners in scoring the Driving Performance Evaluation (DPE) drive test.

SUMMARY:

This memo presents the results of an analysis of 142 completed DPE test score sheets administered in the Bellflower, Laguna Hills, Sacramento, and South Sacramento field offices during August 2-13, 1993. This study represents the second stage in a four-stage project to develop an improved competency-based drive test for possible statewide implementation. Most of the subjects were novice original first-attempt applicants; however, a small but unknown number of second-attempt and out-of-state applicants were also tested in order to increase the volume of tests. Each test was scored simultaneously by two examiners one sitting in the front seat and the other in the back seat. Seating position was switched intermittently so that an approximately equal number of drive tests were administered by each examiner in the front and back seats. The licensing decision was based on the front-seat examiners score. The interrater reliability, .68, was computed by pooling the tests administered by all examiner pairs and correlating front-seat examiner test scores with back-seat examiner test scores. This level of reliability is essentially equal to the .69 reliability obtained for the department's drive test in 1978. Several recommendations for improving the test administration procedures and scoring criteria were made, which were expected to increase the test's reliability.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Several improvements in the DPE were made following this pilot study. The DPE was subsequently piloted in six California field offices, and later in 30 offices in the southern California counties of Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange. In 1996, an additional 23 offices in the 3-county area will begin using the DPE.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

See Ratz, Report #62, Volume I and II; Hagge, Report #150; Shumaker, Report #151; Romanowicz and Hagge, Report #154; Williams and Shumaker, (1994), unpublished internal report.