TITLE: Pilot Test of Four Written Driver License Knowledge Tests

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FUNDING SOURCE: Office of Traffic Safety and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

PROTECT OBJECTIVE:
    To provide technical assistance to the Division of Headquarters Operations in pilot testing four of the Department's written driver license examinations and to provide test and item statistics.

SUMMARY:
    A pilot test of the English versions of (1) the 46-item test for original applicants 18 years or older (DL-5, Rev. 12/84), (2) the 18-item test for renewals (DL-4, Rev. 7/86), (3) the 46-item test for 15-17 year olds (DL-5T, Rev 8/85), and (4) the 25-item motorcycle test (DL-5K, Rev. 1/86) was conducted from September 25 through September 26, 1986. Field Offices administered and sent to Headquarters tests from first attempt applicants only.

    The following data were obtained:

    1. Percent of responses on each item alternative and item - whole correlations for each test form.

    2. Cumulative percent of total applicants by number of items missed for each test form.

    3. Fail rate, mean items missed, and test reliability for each test form.

    Results of the pilot indicated that a number of test forms and items needed revision in order to achieve acceptable fail rate and reliability standards. It was also recommended that since the Hispanic and Asian populations are continuing to grow in California, and in fairness to applicants tested in a language other than English, a follow-up pilot of the non-English written tests should be conducted.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:
    Recommendation to review certain test item and forms for improving reliability and fail rates were implemented as part of the ongoing test revision/ printing project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
    None available.