

Texas FFA Tractor Technician CDE
Safe and Appropriate Tractor Operation
Revised 3-4-04

The operator shall be in the seat of the tractor when engaging the starter motor or attempting to start the engine.

The transmission shall be placed in neutral or park and the clutch disengaged before attempting to start the engine.

The operator shall give an audible signal and assure that all team members are in a clear, safe position prior to engaging the starter motor or attempting to start the engine.

The starter motor shall not be engaged for over 30 seconds at a time. If the starter motor is engaged for over 30 seconds, a minimum of 1 minute cool down period shall be allowed before it is engaged again.

All actions taken during testing, adjusting, repair, and operation of the tractor shall be completed in a prudent manner and in compliance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

All guards, shields, cowlings, etc. shall be installed prior to driving the tractor.

The operator shall wear the seat belt during the test drive.

Flashers and running lights shall be on when the tractor is being driven on test course.

Tractor motion shall be started smoothly by releasing the clutch in a slow, smooth manner.

The appropriate gear and r.p.m. for the test drive will be announced prior to competition in Part III and the tractor shall be operated in or below the designated gear and at or below the designated r.p.m.

The operator shall not enter the test course unless a safe distance is available ahead of an approaching tractor. Tractors on the test course have right-of-way.

The operator shall not pass another tractor on test course, unless instructed to do so by the event traffic director. If a tractor is operating poorly and/or not maintaining appropriate speed, the event traffic director may permit faster traveling tractors to pass the slow moving tractor.

Tractor shall be driven in safe manner and a safe following distance of at least three (3) tractor lengths shall be maintained when following a tractor on the test course.

Upon completion of the test drive, the tractor shall be stopped in a smooth manner, transmission placed in neutral or park position, brakes set, tractor key turned off, and the operator shall dismount in a safe manner.

A grade of F will be awarded if the operator does not follow the designated test course.