

# **AORSI-100-STD Workbook**

## **Overview**

This course explores the regulatory landscape, national and state standards, and certification pathways within off-road education and practice. By understanding the standards that shape the industry, students and instructors can ensure compliance, improve safety, and promote professional credibility.

## **Learning Objectives**

- Explain key national/state regulations affecting off-road use.
- Recognize the role of standards in safety and industry practice.
- Understand certification requirements for riders, instructors, and organizations.

# Module 1: U.S. Federal & State Regulations Overview

Off-road vehicle use is shaped by both federal and state-level regulations. These cover land access, emissions, noise limits, safety equipment requirements, and environmental protections. Students should learn how to research local requirements, especially when crossing state lines or using federal lands.

Instructor Guidance: Provide examples of state OHV regulations and highlight differences between regions.

Course Design Suggestion: Assign students to compare regulations from two states and identify key differences.

Exercise: Research the OHV regulations for your state and summarize the key requirements.

Reflection Question: Why do off-road regulations vary so widely between states?

## **Module 2: Industry Standards (ANSI, SAE, ISO)**

Standards organizations like ANSI, SAE, and ISO provide frameworks for equipment safety, training methods, and vehicle specifications. While not laws, these standards guide manufacturers, training programs, and operators toward best practices. Students should understand how adherence to standards strengthens both safety and liability protection.

**Instructor Guidance:** Present real-world examples of SAE or ANSI standards applied in off-road design or training.

**Course Design Suggestion:** Have students evaluate an off-road course or product for alignment with at least one industry standard.

**Exercise:** Identify three benefits of aligning training with recognized standards.

**Reflection Question:** How do industry standards improve both safety and credibility?

## **Module 3: Certification Models in Off-Road Riding (Rider Training, Instructor Credentials)**

Certification provides structured recognition of skills and knowledge. Rider certifications ensure safe operation, instructor certifications validate teaching competence, and organizational certifications establish program credibility. Certification models may vary from voluntary to mandatory depending on jurisdiction and purpose.

**Instructor Guidance:** Review existing rider and instructor certification models from organizations like MSF or Tread Lightly.

**Course Design Suggestion:** Have students design a mock certification pathway for an off-road riding school.

**Exercise:** List three advantages of certification for riders or instructors.

**Reflection Question:** Why might some off-road organizations resist certification requirements?

## **Module 4: Compliance vs Liability – What Happens When Standards Aren't Met**

Failure to meet regulations or standards can result in fines, loss of access, increased accidents, and legal liability. Students should learn to distinguish between compliance (meeting the letter of the law) and best practice (exceeding the minimum). Liability risks grow significantly when negligence or disregard for standards leads to harm.

Instructor Guidance: Present legal case studies where lack of compliance led to fines or lawsuits.

Course Design Suggestion: Assign a case study analysis of an incident where standards were not met and discuss the consequences.

Exercise: Draft a compliance checklist for an off-road training organization.

Reflection Question: Why is going beyond compliance often the smarter choice for organizations?

## **Final Assessment**

Task: Complete a written exam covering federal/state regulations, standards, and certification pathways. Students will also review a case study where non-compliance led to safety or legal issues, summarizing lessons learned. Sample exam questions include:

1. What are three key areas covered by state OHV regulations?
2. How do ANSI, SAE, or ISO standards improve off-road safety?
3. What are the advantages of certification for instructors?
4. How does failing to meet compliance requirements increase liability?
5. Why is it important for organizations to go beyond compliance?

**Duration:** 6 hours (hybrid)