

Safeguard

Plant and Machinery Quad bikes



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Objective

To provide guidance on the safe operation of quad bikes.

Background

Quad bikes are four-wheeled vehicles with a saddle seat that are commonly used on farms. They are not safe for use in all terrains.

Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs) must ensure that workers and other people at the workplace are not exposed to health and safety risks, so far as is reasonably practicable. This includes the risk of quad bikes rolling over or hazards from carrying items that could become projectiles in an incident.

Risk control measures

The risks associated with the use of quad bikes can be minimised by:

- ensuring riders are competent in the safe use of the vehicle
- wearing appropriate clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as:
 - an approved helmet
 - long sleeved tops
 - long pants
 - sturdy boots
 - gloves
 - eye protection
- maintaining the vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations

- regularly checking the operation of the brakes and the condition of the tyres
- taking care when operating the vehicle on unfamiliar, rough or sloping ground e.g. beware of hazards such as rocks, hollows, irrigation pipes, livestock and other vehicles
- never transporting passengers as they affect the driver's ability to control the vehicle (which is controlled, especially during cornering, by the rider shifting their weight)
- using flags and aerals to improve the visibility of the vehicles which are lower to the ground and therefore not as easily seen as other vehicles
- riding cautiously, especially on inclines – abrupt opening of the throttle may cause the front wheels to lift off the ground and result in a loss of direction or control, and/or cause the vehicle to flip backwards
- avoiding paved surfaces or public roads which are not designed for use of these vehicles
- being familiar with the capabilities of the vehicle and following the manufacturer's recommendations for operation and loading
- ensuring that trailers and rack mounted spray tanks do not affect the vehicle's stability and handling.

Quad bikes should never be operated by:

- a person affected by drugs, alcohol, illness or fatigue
- children under the age of 16 because their body weight, strength and skill is not sufficient to control an adult sized bike safely.

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