

Safe Use of ATVs on New Zealand Farms

Agricultural Guideline

This Guideline covers work, non-work and recreational use of farm-sized ATVs on New Zealand farms.



NZ Farm Forestry Association



COMPETENCY GUIDELINE

- ATV riders should be competent in the safe use of the particular ATV to be ridden.
 - Competency can be achieved through practical training consistent with nationally recognised Training Standards, available through the Agricultural Industry Training Organisation.
 - Employers, guardians and people in charge of ATVs have an obligation to ensure employees, youths and visitors are adequately supervised and instructed in their safe use.



HELMETS, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING GUIDELINE

- Helmets conforming to an approved standard should be worn.
- Appropriate footwear should be worn.
- Eye protection/goggles and gloves should be considered in appropriate situations.



AGE GUIDELINE

- Youths under the age of 15 years *should not* drive a farm ATV.
- Children under the age of 12 *shall not* be permitted to drive a farm ATV.
 - Youths between the ages of 12 and 15 years *shall not* be permitted to ride a farm ATV unless their guardian or employer establishes that the youth is capable and competent to ride the particular ATV, and extra precautions are taken and limits imposed as follows:
 - The youth has the physical strength and size to safely operate the ATV;
 - The youth is adequately trained in the use of the ATV;
 - The youth is wearing a suitable helmet and solid footwear (boots) at all times;
 - No passengers are carried;
 - No implements or loads (such as trailers, spray tanks and hay bales), that may compromise the ability of the youth to safely handle the ATV are carried on, or attached to, the ATV;
 - Appropriate limits are placed on the operation of the ATV including, limits on speed, terrain and enforcement of no-go areas;
 - The youth is adequately supervised to ensure ongoing compliance with the above requirements.



FARM GUIDELINE

Farm owners and managers should:

- Instruct employees and contractors on areas of the farm that may pose a high risk and any areas that are not safe to access on the ATV.
- Provide visitors with useful information on safe routes, areas of the farm that pose a high risk and any areas that are not safe to access on the ATV.
- Ensure that tracks and access-ways are maintained when necessary and consider practical changes, such as additional tracks, that make their properties safer for ATVs to be used.



PASSENGER GUIDELINE

ATVs are not designed for the carriage of passengers. Carrying passengers adds extra risks. If passengers do need to be carried, then extra precautions must be taken to minimise the extra risks:

- Establish, prior to carriage, the extent of the intended passenger's previous ATV experience and provide necessary instruction to ensure their safety.
- Reduce the speed travelled to a safe and appropriate level.
- Avoid steep terrain (stick to flat terrain or formed tracks).
- Ensure helmets and protective footwear are worn.
- Require passengers get off and walk if the terrain poses a significant risk.



ROPS GUIDELINE

Until such time as there is evidence to the contrary, farmers have the right to choose whether or not they fit ROPS to their ATVs.

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE

Owners of ATVs, and employers of staff that supply their own ATVs for work purposes, should ensure the ATV is maintained to a safe standard.

