

### Your guide to a safer ride

There is no doubt quad bikes and side-by-sides are a very handy addition to many fodder production operations.

Cheaper than a small tractor, they allow easy and efficient movement around your farm. They're often used for transporting people and equipment, towing a trailer, spraying, spreading, checking fences and stock, and much more.

Similar to tractors, side-by-sides and quad bikes (ATVs) are known for their vulnerability to rollovers. Riders face a significant risk of injury or even fatality due to the potential of being trapped, crushed, or ejected from the vehicle.

In response to this, the Consumer Goods (Quad Bikes) Safety Standard 2019 was introduced, aiming to minimise the risk of severe harm or death.

From October 2020, suppliers must comply with a safety standard when they sell you a new quad bike. This includes meeting a minimum stability requirement and being fitted with a OPD (operator protection device).



*More than 180 people have died in accidents associated with the use of quad bikes since 2011.*

[Safe Work Australia - Quad bikes](#)

### There are three categories of quad bikes:

- General use (commonly marketed as utility, work or agricultural models)
- Youth models (also marketed as fun models) and transition models
- Sports models



### Does my quad bike need an OPD?

All general use quad bikes must be fitted with an OPD or have one integrated in to its design.

The purpose of an OPD is to protect the rider from the risk of death or serious injury as a result of being crushed or pinned in the event of a rollover. The OPD will hold the bike off the ground.

Sometimes called a roll bar or Crush Protection Device, a quad bike must have one of the following devices fitted or integrated in to its design:

- An ATV lifeguard
- A Quadbar
- A device of a type that offers the same, or better, level of protection for operators from the risk of serious injury or death as a result of being crushed or pinned in the event of a rollover.

If you are looking to buy a quad bike, new or second hand, make sure it meets the new requirements of the Standard, and is fitted with an OPD.

Visit your Local State Work Health Safety authority for further information.



## 10 tips for quad bike safety

- 1. Ensure quad bike is fitted with an OPD.** All new general use quad bikes require a OPD. While it is not a mandatory law for second-hand quad bikes to have them installed, it is highly recommended to install one.
- 2. Always wear appropriate PPE** (personal protective equipment). Always wear an approved helmet and appropriate clothing when riding a quad bike. This includes goggles, long sleeves, long pants, boots and gloves/hand protection.
- 3. Choose the right vehicle for the job.** Consider whether your quad bike or side-by-side is the appropriate vehicle for the task at hand.
- 4. Assess the weight of the load on attached devices.** Overloading your trailer with heavy materials like hay can lead to tipping.
- 5. Review the terrain.** Avoid steep hills, as quad bikes are prone to rollovers.
- 6. Always carry out a pre-ride safety check.** Ensure your vehicle is in proper working condition.
- 7. Adhere to speed limits.** Speed can be a contributing factor when it comes to accidents and fatalities.
- 8. Provide ongoing (adequate) training.** Ensure that both you and your workers receive proper and ongoing training to operate quad bikes or ATVs.

- 9. Keep maintenance up to date.** Keep the quad bike in good condition by performing regular maintenance and safety checks. Make sure brakes, tyres, and other essential components are in working order.
- 10. Never carry passengers.** Quad bikes may become unbalanced when carrying more than one rider. No one else should be on the vehicle other than the operator.

## Additional safety needed for children and teenagers

Ensuring the safety and well-being of young people on quad bikes requires additional attention and focus.

- **Provide safety gear that fits.** To be effective, helmets, gloves and clothing need to be fitted properly.
- **Enforce the no-passenger rule.** Communicate the risks involved.
- **Don't forget to supervise.** Children need supervision until they prove they can ride responsibly.
- **Set an example:** Follow safety rules on your quad bike.
- **Emergency response:** Teach them to turn off the engine, call for help, and administer first aid in emergencies.

For further information on farm machinery safety, download Safe Ag Systems' [Free Farm Machinery Safety Resource](#).



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Produced: October 2023