

# QUAD BIKE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

## FACTSHEET HSSE2

Many contractors working for OSPRI's TBfree programme use quad bikes to access their areas of operation. There is a significant risk in using quad bikes – quad bikes are involved in approximately 28% of all work-related farm deaths – and OSPRI takes the safety of our contractors seriously.

This factsheet explains the key health and safety requirements and best practices around the use of quad bikes, and offers references to guides and codes of practice produced by health and safety organisations such as WorkSafe.

## KEY HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

---

OSPRI is responsible for ensuring its workers work safely, and that their workplaces are safe. The operation of quad bikes for access and transport into your areas of operation carries significant risks which can be mitigated by an understanding of, and adherence to, guidelines developed specifically for the safe operation of quad bikes.

## OUR EXPECTATIONS OF CONTRACTORS USING QUAD BIKES

---

The following are our controls for the risks involved in quad bike use. If you believe quad bikes are being used unsafely on your land, we want to know about it.

### *OSPRI management controls for quad bike operation*

- No OSPRI worker will ride pillion or carry passengers on any quad bike that is not specifically designed for two people.
- Contractors are encouraged to use alternative "safer" modes of transport wherever practicable.
- All contracts have financial incentives for contractors to use alternative "safer" means of transport than quad bikes.
- Where an area or track is assessed as unsafe for quad operation, workers must opt for alternative mode of transport, or walk.

### *Safety or personal protective equipment (PPE)*

- Appropriate helmet, hi-vis clothing, and appropriate footwear in accordance with OSPRI PPE policy. Quad bike helmets are not suitable for use on road, or anywhere at speeds of over 30kmph.

### *Work instructions*

- OSPRI quad bike safety stickers shall be displayed on the bike at all times.
- Check tyres, wheels, controls, lights, oil and chassis before riding.
- Children are regularly killed by quad bikes and must not be carried as passengers or be allowed to operate quad bikes under any circumstances.
- Bikes must be operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

### *Minimum competency*

- **Qualifications:** Operators must have training to the level of unit standards 24554 (flat terrain), 24557 (knowledge), 24559 (undulating terrain), 24563 (with load) Note: Previous or replacement versions of the unit standards are also acceptable.
- **OSPRI endorses and strongly recommends AgExcel tutors deliver quad bike training.**

*These guidelines complement safety information from ACC and WorkSafe's Safer Farms programme. For further safety information please refer to manufacturers' instructions, training providers, or contact WorkSafe on 0800 030 040.*

## FIRST CONSIDERATIONS

---

- **Is a quad bike the right vehicle for the job?** Depending on terrain and access, a quad might not be the most appropriate vehicle.
- **Is your bike fit for purpose?** Maintenance and safety equipment, tyre pressure and load-carrying equipment need consideration.
- **Are you familiar with the people and property hazards?** Assess and identify risks and stop unsafe behaviour in zone of operation.
- **Have you minimised hazards?** Do this by using helmets, proper training, route management and risk awareness.

## TOP TIPS FOR SAFE QUAD BIKE USE

---

Each farm situation will be different. You will need to assess the hazards present, consider the likelihood of harm, and act according to your own circumstances, using these guidelines to help you make good, safe decisions.

The following tips will alert you to the primary areas of operation and control for quad bike use. Various situations will require emphasis on different aspects, so concentrate on those most important to the job you are about to undertake and the area in which you will operate.

- **Know your bike:** Familiarity with all aspects of safe operation and active riding technique minimise mistakes and risks.
- **Pre-operation check:** Mechanical failure (of brakes, steering, running gear) puts the rider at risk.
- **Know your terrain:** Steep, slippery, unstable and wet terrain present a hazard for safe operation. Please tell our contractors of any tracks you believe are unsafe for quad riding.
- **Protect yourself:** A securely fastened helmet, appropriate footwear and protective clothing shield your body from harm.
- **Personal circumstances:** Stress, fatigue, attitude (recklessness, over-confidence), drugs and alcohol can affect safe operation.
- **Carrying passengers:** Quad bikes are designed for one rider; any more compromise safe operation and increase risk.
- **Carrying and towing:** Manage load weights, stability and position to minimise risk of braking, loss of traction or roll-over.
- **Multi-tasking:** Performing another task while riding can compromise safe riding technique.
- **Modifications:** Anything attached to the bike after it has left the factory is a risk. Check carefully.
- **Working alone?** Communication is key – let someone know where you plan to be; carry a phone, radio or GPS locator beacon.

## WE WILL WORK WITH YOU

---

Health and safety is all about communication, which goes both ways. We want to know who and what you care about, to help us avoid causing any harm or damage. We will tell you about the hazards and risks involved in our work too. If you have any questions, please contact your local OSPRI office, visit [ospri.co.nz](https://ospri.co.nz) or call 0800 482 463.