



Australian Government

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QUAD BIKES—TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

This information sheet provides an overview for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) and workers on their health and safety obligations to provide, engage in and follow information, training, instruction and supervision in relation to quad bike use under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (WHS Act)*.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Operating quad bikes can be dangerous due to their poor stability. This is particularly true where the rider is untrained, inexperienced or otherwise unfamiliar with task-specific requirements. Quad bikes are powerful and complex pieces of plant and require the rider to shift and use their body weight to actively control the bike while it is in motion (known as 'active riding' technique). Training which is not specific to the job role/tasks being undertaken will be inadequate.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Quad bike skills are not intuitive and need to be learned through rider experience, training and ongoing supervision. Riders who are unfamiliar with a particular quad bike or work terrain and/or are unskilled in proper active riding techniques are at an increased risk of serious injury or death.

TRAINING AND SUPERVISION—WHAT DO I NEED TO CONSIDER?

PCBUs must ensure that quad bike riders have the knowledge, skills, experience and training necessary to operate a quad bike safely and are closely supervised until they are assessed as competent in its use.

No operator should use a quad bike without first receiving training. Training is essential to help reduce the risk of serious injury or death associated with quad bike use.

Rider training must be workplace or task specific. Often a combination of general and job specific training will be necessary for riders to become sufficiently competent to operate a quad bike safely. In line with WHS legislative obligations PCBUs should consider the following:

TRAINING REQUIREMENT	WHAT'S INVOLVED
Provision of safety information and instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ensure workers receive generalised and task specific training before operating a quad bike. > Ensure the training outlines and confirms all safe work procedures and familiarises the worker with the safety instructions in the quad bike operator's manual. > Ensure any quad bike no-go zones at the workplace are adequately explained and confirmed as understood. > Training courses should accord with AHCMOM212A Operate Quad Bikes as a minimum. > Provide workers with quad bike safety information relevant to the specific task(s) being undertaken before task commencement, for example, preferred routes, no-go zones and emergency procedures. > Ensure adherence to routine pre-start and operation checks in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions. > Ensure clarity around tasks that are deemed too risky for quad bike use, for example, spraying, towing of loads.
Assessing rider competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Following training, undertake a field assessment of each worker who will operate existing and/or new quad bikes in the workplace. > Assess the competency of each worker to ensure that they are able to ride the quad bike they are expected to use capably and safely. > Ensure assessment includes practical and theoretical elements. Practically confirm the rider can demonstrate appropriate riding techniques needed to negotiate terrain safely, while theoretical elements will check the rider's knowledge and understanding of quad bike safety more broadly.
Provision of supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The level, duration and type of supervision may vary according to the individual, their experience and competence, for example, restrictions may apply to novice riders where they can be easily supervised, then progressed through more challenging requirements until the worker is permitted to ride unsupervised.
Refresher training for existing workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ensure experienced quad bike operators and long-term workers receive refresher training on a regular basis or when there is a change in the type of vehicle or attachments used. Refresher training should be considered for the introduction of a new task, in response to a safety incident or on the review of a risk assessment.
Maintenance of training and supervision records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Keep records of training and induction conducted, including the names of the trainer and the operator, the date, location and the results of the skills assessment. > Keep records of any reported problems as well as the actions undertaken to remedy the issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- > Quad Bike portal under Safety & Prevention > Health & safety topics at www.comcare.gov.au
- > Telephone: 1300 366 979
- > Email: WHS.help@comcare.gov.au