

Quad Bike (ATV) Safety Guidelines.

The following guidelines are set out as guidelines only, and do not construct any association with legal requirements what so ever. The basis of the guidelines is set out for use of an ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart or similar vehicle that is to be used on private land or on the road where it is identified. Laws in certain countries are different from one to another, so it is always advisable to check with the supporting authority in your country for up to date laws and legislations regarding the use of ATV's / Quad Bikes / Go-Carts.

The backbone to this guide has been developed in association with information extracted from the HSE website, and also from ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart manufacturer's websites.

1) Where to use ATV's Quad Bikes or Go-Carts.

The law as it stands prevents the use of any of the above vehicles to be used on a public highway unless:

- The ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart was designed for use on a highway or public road.
- The person riding the machine has the necessary qualifications and insurance to drive or ride the vehicle.
- The vehicle meets the guidelines as set out by [VOSA](#) or other country specific regulatory body, for use on a public highway.

Off Road Use.

The present legal restrictions have been very much the same for many years. The person or people using motorised machinery for off road leisure or recreational purposes should follow these simple guidelines, and if you have any question which needs answering regarding the use of a vehicle on or off road, then please contact your local Police Station and they will be able to help with any local laws, by-laws or such.

- ATV's / Quad Bikes / Go-Carts should only ever be used on private land if the users have the consent of the land owner.

- ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart should never be used on a public walk way or bridal path, it is against the law to do so and can also be dangerous to other users.

2) Safety Clothing When Riding An ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart

One of the strangest things with the UK law is that at present, you do not need to wear a helmet or any safety clothing. Yet, if you had a car that was powered by electricity and could only reach 30-40 mph, you would still have to wear a seat belt. There has been cases where Quad Bikes / ATV / Go-Carts with as little as a 100cc engine have been registered travelling at over the UK max road legal limit of 70mph.

Just with this information alone, the government should introduce standard safety measures so that anyone riding any of the above has to have certain items of safety wear as basic requirement. What we have done is show below examples of what should be used as standard even though not always legally required.

Safety Helmets.

- A sensible safety helmet should be used both on and off road whilst riding an ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart which meets at least the basic accreditation for a BSi safety logo. The standards for the motorcycle industry is by far more stringent than the ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart industry, so carry far better standards. If buying a Motorcycle helmet, it should have at least **BS 6658** or **UN ECE regulation 22.05** certification or stamp. For the basic standards of ATV /Quad Bike /Go-Cart helmets, they will also have to carry at least **BS EN 1384** accreditation.

Safety Boots.

- Safety boots with ankle support should be worn at all times. ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart wheels travel very

close to the front and rear of the foot and in certain weather conditions ie; rain, this can make riding very dangerous even though it seems to be more fun. Manufacturers of motorcycle accessories do supply suitable riding boots to retail stores, so it is always advisable to seek advice on what is acceptable for the type of usage you are considering.

Safety Clothing.

- Some jackets and trouser outfits have supports tailored into the material as standard, but are not always a basic feature. We recommend that when selecting a jacket and/or trousers, that you find ones that have these features as standard. Should you not be able to find a suitable outfit with these features, then it is advisable to find something where you can wear added protection either under or over the garments. One point that should always be followed when buying clothing is; If the ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart is going to be used in all seasons, always take along extra clothing to simulate cold conditions and try the clothing on with these items being worn. Something that is very dangerous is wrongly fitting clothing when riding your machine. Should the clothing be too restrictive then your general machine control will be limited, making riding extremely dangerous. The basic body armour which would be deemed suitable would be:
 - **Back and Chest Brace**
 - **Shoulder Padding**
 - **Elbow Padding**
 - **Knee Padding**
 - **Shin Covers**

Additional Items.

- Again, in most cases manufacturers supply retailers with additional items of clothing which should be worn

whilst riding on an ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart. It is always advisable to wear added protection whilst riding. Below is a list of items which we feel are basic, yet offer extra protection where needed.

- **Gloves.** Most gloves that are supplied to retailers carry not only extra padding, water resistance and heat retaining materials, but also have the added benefit of strength protection strips fitted. It is always a good point to check if gloves for riding ATV's / Quad Bikes / Go-Carts offer all of the above features making sure that when they are fitted on the hands, that your movement is not restricted to the degree you can not operate things like; Indicators, Lights, Horn, Hand Brakes and Clutch. It is just as dangerous to wear badly fitting gloves as none at all, so when selecting the correct pair always make sure that they fit properly and give maximum movement whilst being worn.
- **Goggles.** Always make sure that you have the correct eye protection when riding your ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart. It has been known where riders have failed to see obstacles due to; insects – mud – dust – sunlight – rain – wind and have not been able to avoid a collision. If your helmet does not have a visor, then it is a must have item in anybody's book to make sure you have at least a pair of safety glasses or goggles. We appreciate that some goggles / glasses do not meet with today's fashion conscious rider, but then nor would a barbed wire headband look that good either.
- **Waterproofs.** It is always good practice to carry a set of water proof over's. If your jacket and trousers are not 100% waterproof, for the sake

of a meal for two, you can get some excellent rain protection making the riding of your ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart a pleasure and not a pain, and most of them can be either carried inside a pocket or attached to a trouser belt.

Before we close this section completely, please also follow one further guideline with regard to Safety Clothing, Helmets and Boots.

Always check your clothing on a regular basis for possible faults. For example; If you do have a small accident and hit your head on the ground, the chances are the helmet may have damage not visible to the naked eye, so make sure if it has been breached in any way take it to a specialist who will check it over for you before you use it again. Where a helmet for example gets breached through and accident or even if it has been dropped on a solid floor, can offer very low impact protection if the material it is manufactured from has internal or none visible damage.

Interesting Industry Facts.

- ATV's / Quad Bikes / Go-Carts are arguably a dangerous weapon if used in the wrong way. Not only are they dangerous to the people riding them, but also other people with the location of where you are. Because of the lack of legislation with the UK, the industry is getting stronger and stronger year on year. And, as much as that is great news for retailers and associated trades, it also brings with it a selection of well orchestrated news hounds that are quick on their heels when something is a miss. Over the last few years the publicity for ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart accidents

are on the increase, and with this alone making parents hesitant over buying gifts for their children that are related to the industry, retailers are making rods for their own backs by not offering sufficient riding instructions/courses for beginners or advanced riders.

- Whilst conducting research for this guide we had cause to speak with some people who work for an organisation called [EASi](#). This in basic terms is a self funding, none profit making organisation who offer advice and training. Whilst we do not support the publicity of profit making businesses, these people do not fall into that category so, we support what they do and why they do it. Should you need to look or talk about anything related to ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart safety or training you can find these people at www.quadsafety.org . We found during the early conversations with this organisation that they were in this for one reason only, and that was to support the safe supply and usage of ATV's / Quad Bikes / Go-Carts.
- When purchasing any ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart, be it brand new or second hand, always check to see if the dealer you speak to is offering or will offer basic rider training. This is something which should now be second nature to anyone related to this industry, but unfortunately is not a legal requirement in the United Kingdom. We have found that this subject alone should be supported by every retailer of New ATV's or Used ATV's, New Quad Bikes or Used Quad Bikes no matter how much of a better deal they may consider offering. Lets face it, a "Cheap Children's Quad Bike" for one particular model we looked at from between £325 and

£395 + delivery. Now, if the dealer selling the £395 offered full training and the one at £325 offered none at all, which one would you buy? Close your eyes and ask yourself this, “Is your children’s life worth £70?” Did you close your eye’s? Why, did you need to even think about it?

- We will be conducting an ATV / Quad Bike / Go-Cart safety survey / poll online at www.myquadbike.com where you will be able to take the survey and let us know your thoughts and feelings about the industry and how it should work for you, the consumer. The data that we achieve from this survey will be constructed and used in a letter to the Prime Minister in the United Kingdom. The reason for this is to see if the Government will endorse a bill that will make it “Standard Procedure” for dealers to supply at least basic training when supplying a quad bike for an experienced adult or child.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this document. Even though we have researched these topics thoroughly we can not guarantee the accuracy of the legalities involved within this document. This, should anyone have any questions about the contents and its creditability, then please seek advise from the legal body that has power to advise. The sections covered within this document are there for the purpose of advice and advice only, so no guarantees are offered to the complete accuracy of the content.