

Helmets for quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles

Background

Around one in five quad bike incidents results in a head injury*. Of those who died from a head injury, more than 80 per cent were not wearing a helmet.

Every time you use a quad bike or side-by-side vehicle you should wear a well-fitted helmet – it's the best protection you have against a head injury.

People in control of a workplace have responsibilities under work health and safety laws to provide safe systems of work for workers and visitors. These responsibilities include managing how quad bikes are used.

Choosing an appropriate helmet

A variety of motorcycle helmets are approved for use in Australia including full face, open face and shorty styles. They are approved under AS1698, the European UNECE 22.05 and New Zealand NZ8600:2002. If you choose to use a New Zealand Standard helmet, it is important to ensure the vehicle is only operated at low speed.



Open face and full face motor cycle helmets. (Photo courtesy of WorkSafe Victoria).

Full-face helmets are useful where there is a higher risk of facial injuries, for example, riding through scrub.

Open face helmets offer protection to the head, but little protection to the face.

The 'shorty' style helmet may be suited to some tasks on rural properties (e.g. mustering in open country) as it provides head protection while still enabling good peripheral vision, hearing, and airflow around the head. A shade brim can be fitted to some models.

When you purchase a helmet, discuss your needs with the salesperson and ensure the helmet meets the standard required for your purpose.



Shorty style helmet



New Zealand approved quad bike helmet (Photo courtesy New Zealand Department of Labour)

As well as a correctly fitting helmet, safe operation of quad bikes also includes:

- deciding whether it is the most suitable vehicle for the task
- choosing the right-sized vehicle for the person, especially if they're under 16
- making sure that the rider is adequately trained to ride safely in a variety of conditions
- keeping the bike well maintained.

More information

For more information and to find out how Ride ready you are visit worksafe.qld.gov.au

** Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety Queensland*