

# OFF-ROAD VEHICLES: WHAT THE LAW SAYS





## To ensure that off-road vehicles are used safely, you must:

- be of legal age to operate an off-road vehicle on a trail, a road, public land or private land belonging to a municipality. In other words, you must be:
  - **16 years of age or older** to operate a snowmobile, a quad bike, or an all-terrain motorcycle, including a motocross bike:
    - › If you are 16 or 17 years of age, you must hold a valid training certificate.
    - › If there is a passenger on your all-terrain vehicle, you must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid training certificate.
  - **18 years of age or older** to drive a recreational off-road vehicle;
- hold a valid driver's licence, probationary licence or learner's licence of any class;





- not operate the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- wear a helmet when operating the vehicle:
  - If your helmet does not have a visor, safety glasses must be worn.
- comply with speed limits;
- cross public roads only where indicated by signs.

Penalties—including deterrent fines—are imposed for failing to comply with the traffic rules that apply to off-road vehicles. All rules regarding *Highway Safety Code* offences that may result in a licence suspension also apply.





# Liability insurance is mandatory.

The *Automobile Insurance Act* does not provide compensation for injuries sustained in an accident involving an off-road vehicle unless a moving automobile was also involved. As a result, the *Act respecting off-highway vehicles* requires all owners of snowmobiles, all-terrain motorcycles (including motocross bikes), quad bikes and recreational off-road vehicles to carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 in third-party liability insurance to cover bodily injury and property damage caused by their vehicle.

Additionally, it is strongly recommended that owners also carry personal insurance to cover any physical injury they themselves sustain, and any damage to their own property.

## For more information

[saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://saaq.gouv.qc.ca)

Original text in French

**Société de l'assurance  
automobile**

**Québec**  

Avec vous,  
au cœur de votre sécurité