



**Off Road Vehicles – as indicated by Manitoba Public Insurance [www.mpi.mb.ca](http://www.mpi.mb.ca)**

### **What are the operating rules for ORVs?**

**Operating rules fall into these categories:**

***riders' age, helmets, towing, and where you can and can't ride.***

#### **Riders' Age**

Children under 14 must not operate ORVs unless supervised, accompanied by, and always within clear view of:

- ✓ a parent; or
- ✓ someone at least 18, who is authorized by the child's parent.

#### **Helmets**

With a few exceptions, ORV riders must wear a properly fastened safety helmet. Safety helmets must meet all the requirements of one of the following standards:

- ✓ Canadian Standards Association Standard D230, "Safety Helmets for Motorcycle Riders", bearing the monogram of the Canadian Standards Association Testing Laboratories;
- ✓ Snell Memorial Foundation "Standard for Protective Headgear", bearing the certificate of the Snell Memorial Foundation;
- ✓ United States of America "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218", bearing the symbol DOT;
- ✓ American National Standard "Specifications for Protective Headgear for Vehicular User" Z90.1, bearing the American National Standard Institute Label; or
- ✓ British Standards Institution "Protective Helmets for Vehicle Users", with respect to motorcycle helmets. You don't have to wear a helmet if:
  - ✓ You're a farmer, commercial fisherman, hunter or trapper riding an ORV while working at your occupation, or
  - ✓ You're working for Manitoba Hydro and riding an ORV to service tower lines north of the 53rd parallel, between May 1 and October 31, or
  - ✓ Your ORV has rollover protection and seatbelts, which anyone riding your ORV must wear.

#### **Towing**

You must not tow a trailer, sleigh, cutter, toboggan or other apparatus across a roadway when it's carrying someone, unless:

- ✓ the person on the towed vehicle is not able to walk, or
- ✓ the towed vehicle is disabled and needs someone to steer it.

#### **Where you can and can't ride**

- ✓ Designated Trails You can operate your snowmobile on trails maintained by Snoman Inc. but the law requires you to display a valid Snopass sticker on your plate. You can purchase the Snopass from any Autopac agent. Seasonal and seven-day passes are available.

## Roadways

- You must not ride on a roadway.
- You can cross a roadway within five metres of an intersection if you hold a valid driver's licence, other than a learner's permit.
- When intersections are more than three kilometres apart, you can cross at any other point along the highway—as long as you have a clear view of oncoming traffic.
- Only one ORV can cross a roadway at a time.
- Before crossing a roadway, you must stop and yield to pedestrians and approaching traffic.

## Roadway Shoulders

You must not ride on the shoulder of a roadway, unless:

- the ORV you're riding has more than two wheels and you're using it for agricultural purposes, and
- the ORV you're riding is displaying "slowmoving vehicle" signs on the rear, and
- you drive at 40 kmh or less, and
- you hold a valid driver's licence, other than a learner's permit, and
- you drive on the right-side shoulder in the same direction as traffic.

## Medians

You must not ride on or across the median of a divided highway.

## Ditches

If your ORV is a four-wheel drive motor vehicle that can be registered under *The Highway Traffic Act*, you must not drive it in ditches. You can ride all other types of ORVs in ditches if:

- the ditch is to the right of the roadway and the shoulder, and
- you travel in the same direction as vehicle traffic.

## Parking Lots

You can drive your ORV in a parking lot to:

- get to where you'll be using your ORV, or
- return to the vehicle that brought your ORV to the parking lot

## Private Land and Dwellings

You must not operate an ORV:

- on privately owned land without the owner/occupier's permission.
- within 30 metres of a dwelling between midnight and seven o'clock in the morning, unless the dwelling is on your own property, or you're an invited guest, or the dwelling is under your control.
- within 30 metres of a playground or area set aside for recreation, unless it's fenced or you're using the ORV for maintenance or operation of the area.

### *What else should I know about operating my ORV safely?*

Although most ORV owners ride responsibly, more than 100 Manitobans are injured or killed in ORV accidents each year.

Operating ORVs safely requires more than simply following the rules we've outlined here. ORVs are powerful machines that, when pushed to their limit, can cause serious injuries and death. You can stay safe by keeping this in mind whenever you're riding your ORV.

Two key pieces of advice for safe operation are common sense: **slow down, and never drink and drive**. The penalties for driving an ORV while impaired are as tough as for driving a car while impaired.

Finally, consider taking a safe-riding course. A safe-riding course specifically for ORVs is available from Safety Services Manitoba. It will help reinforce the special skills needed to operate your ORV safely. Call 204-949-1085 for more information or visit their web site at [www.mbsafety.org](http://www.mbsafety.org)