



Quad bike safety standard

Guidance for consumers

10 October 2019

Quad bikes have a number of design features that create risks for users, particularly when used on uneven or sloped ground. Losing control of a quad bike can cause it to flip or rollover causing death or serious injury.

The Australian Government has introduced a [safety standard](#) to improve the safety of quad bikes.

This guidance will help you stay safe when purchasing a quad bike.

About quad bikes

A quad bike (also known as an all-terrain vehicle or ATV) is an off-road motorised vehicle that travels on four wheels, with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control. All vehicles that meet this description, including those that are propelled by a combustion engine and an electric engine, are considered to be quad bikes.

Quad bike models are commonly categorised as:

- general use models (commonly marketed as utility, work or agricultural models)
- sports models
- youth models (also marketed as fun models) and transition models.

Below are example images of different categories of quad bikes described in the [safety standard for quad bikes](#).

General use model – Type I (one seat)



General use model – Type II (two seats)



Sports model



Youth model



What to look for when purchasing

Suppliers must comply with a [safety standard](#) when they sell you a new quad bike. This standard specifies requirements for all quad bikes supplied from 11 October 2020 and additional requirements for general use quad bikes supplied from 11 October 2021. The standard does not apply to second-hand quad bikes other than second-hand quad bikes that are imported into Australia.

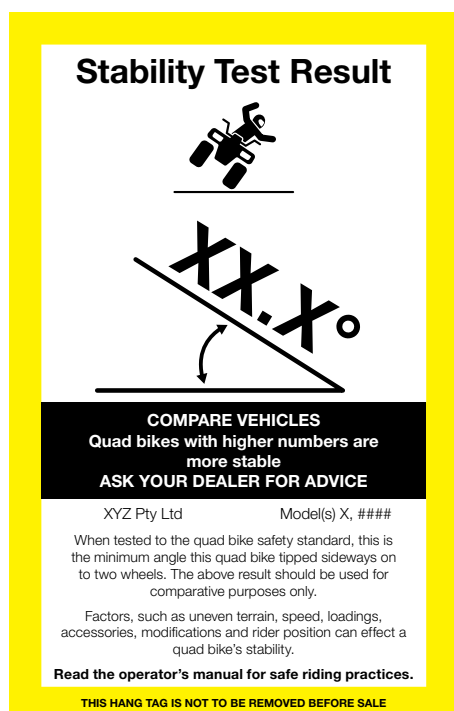
From 11 October 2020, suppliers must:

- hang a tag on the quad bike that allows you to compare the safety of models prior to purchase
- fix a durable rollover warning label to the quad bike to warn users of risk of rollover
- include, in the owner's manual, safety information about the risk of rollover
- meet certain requirements in the US or European standards for quad bikes.

From 11 October 2021, **general use quad bikes** must also:

- have an operator protection device (OPD) attached to help protect riders from the risk of serious injury or fatality as a result of being crushed or pinned in the event of a rollover by holding the quad bike off the ground
- meet minimum stability requirements.

Check the hang tag to compare stability



The hang tag will tell you the minimum angle at which the quad bike tipped sideways on to two wheels when it was tested by the manufacturer. Quad bikes with higher numbers are more stable.

The hang tag will help you to compare the stability of different models within a particular category of quad bike. For example, if you are looking for a youth quad bike, you can compare the stability of different models of youth quad bikes. The hang tag should not be used to compare across categories (for example, to compare a youth quad bike with a general use quad bike) as the stability tests are different.

Look for a durable rollover warning label

The rollover warning label is a permanent label fixed on the quad bike to remind the user about the risk of rollovers and how to avoid them.

Rollover safety information must also be included in the owner's manual.

Operator protection devices (OPDs)

The images below show the two models of OPDs specified in the safety standard. A device of a type that offers the same or better level of protection can also be used.

Quadbar



ATV Lifeguard®



Sixty per cent of quad bike fatalities occur when the quad bike rolls over.

From 11 October 2021, every general use quad bike must have an OPD fitted or integrated into its design so that, if the quad bike rolls over, the quad bike is held off the ground, to help the rider avoid injury or death as a result of being crushed or pinned by the weight of the quad bike.

The safety standard supports quad bike and after-market OPD manufacturers to develop designs for innovative OPDs to protect operators. For example, the Quadbar model has been upgraded to the Quadbar Flexi.

Reporting a supplier

If a supplier does not comply with the safety standard, they may be in breach of the Australian Consumer Law, which can result in [fines and penalties](#). If you think a supplier has contravened the safety standard, you can report this to the ACCC: www.productsafety.gov.au/contact-us.

How to stay safe

The Product Safety website provides other tips and checklists to help you, your loved ones, friends and work colleagues stay safe when using quad bikes.

More information

www.productsafety.gov.au/quad-bike-standard