



Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council  
Conseil Canadien des Distributeurs de Véhicules Hors Route

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## **COHV ATV Rider Safety**

The safety of our customers and every rider in Canada is of paramount importance to the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and its member companies. The number of Canadians riding ATVs has tripled in the past ten years. ATV rider safety is improving with around 3.5 millions Canadians riding their ATVs without incident each year.

ATVs are safe, when ridden responsibly in accordance with the Owner's manual. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) data show that 92 percent of all ATV-related fatalities are the result of warned-against behaviors. These behaviors include: not wearing a helmet, riding on public roads, carrying a passenger on a single-rider ATV, riding the wrong size ATV, youth riding unsupervised, riding with no formal ATV training, speeding and riding under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Each COHV member company is known throughout the world for its dedication to engineering, design and customer satisfaction for all of its products. COHV member companies are committed to ensuring customers have a safe and enjoyable experience on our ATVs.

### **ATV Industry's Efforts**

- All COHV member companies comply with Canadian voluntary standards, first introduced in 1991.
- COHV and the ATV Industry have been calling for mandatory vehicle equipment standards since 1995.
- COHV member companies are in compliance with Transport Canada regulations, Environment Canada regulations and comply with the newest COHV ATV standard updated in 2007.
- COHV's voluntary standard establishes requirements for equipment, configuration, performance and labeling of four wheel ATVs and for warning and caution statements in owner's manuals.
- The COHV and its member companies have invested millions of dollars in promoting rider safety, training, and education.

### **COHV Commitment to Safety:**

- COHV member companies; Arctic Cat; BRP (Can-Am); Honda; Kawasaki; KTM; Polaris; Suzuki and Yamaha are committed to producing the safest ATV's in the world.
- COHV and its member companies disagree with the suggestion that there is a link between an ATV's static lateral stability and ATV injuries and fatalities. Unlike pickup

trucks and four-wheel off-road utility vehicles, ATVs are rider active. This means that appropriate body movement by the rider is part of the system for controlling vehicle operation and performance.

- The rider-active nature of ATV operation, the broad range of terrain over which ATVs operate, and the lack of a verifiable correlation between accident occurrence and lateral stability coefficients for four-wheel ATVs preclude any conclusion that a lateral stability is an appropriate measure for determining ATV safety.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has twice reviewed this issue and found no correlation between rollover incidents and lateral stability measures that would support a mandatory static lateral stability requirement for four-wheel ATVs.

### **The ATV Safety Golden Rules**

1. Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
2. Never ride on public roads - another vehicle could hit you.
3. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
4. Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
5. Ride an ATV that's right for your age.
6. Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
7. Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
8. New Rider - Take an ATV Rider Training Course

### **Education, Training and Age Restrictions**

ATVs are not “one-size-fits-all.” In studies done by the CPSC over 90 percent of youth ATV-related injuries occur when a child under the age of 16 is operating an adult-sized ATV. No child under the age of 16 should be permitted to ride an adult-sized ATV.

As parents, you literally hold the key to your children’s safety. Every ATV has an ignition key and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. Parental supervision is vital to a child’s safety; children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised at all times when riding an ATV.

Here is what all parents need to know when it comes to your child and ATVs -- Ride an ATV that is right for your age. The new guidelines are:



- Y-6+ designed for riders aged 6 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of 10 mph or 16 km, can be adjusted by parents up to a maximum speed 15 mph or 24 km.
- Y-10+ designed for riders aged 10 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of 15 mph or 24 km, can be adjusted by parent up to maximum speed 30 mph or 48 km.
- Y-12+ designed for riders aged 12 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of 15 mph or 24 km, can be adjusted by parent up to a maximum speed 30 mph or 48 km.
- T designed for riders aged 14 and older with adult supervision, and riders 16 and older without supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of 20 mph or 32 km, can be adjusted by parent to maximum speed of 30 mph or 48 km or 38 mph or 61 km.

Please prepare your child to make the safe choice when given the opportunity to ride an ATV. The COHV and its member company's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider.

For more information about ATV safety or to find out about training in your area, please visit our website [www.cohv.ca](http://www.cohv.ca) or call toll free 1-877-470-2288.

