

# FAQs on Quadricycles or Quad Bikes

RSA

**What is a quad bike?** A quad bike or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is a four-wheel powered vehicle which is generally designed for off-road use e.g. farms, purpose-built tracks etc.

**Can I drive a quad on public road?** If used on a public road which includes footpath, quads are subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) i.e. must be roadworthy, registered, taxed and comply with all regulations mentioned below.

**What road traffic laws apply to quads?** If used in a public place quads must comply with the following\*:

- [S.I. No. 5 of 2003 - Road Traffic Construction and Use of Vehicles Regulations](#)
- [S.I. No. 190 of 1963 - Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations](#)
- [S.I. No. 189 of 1963 - Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles](#)

\*These regulations are in original format and amendments can be viewed at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

**Can I tow a trailer with a quad on a public road?** Yes, provided that the quad meets with all the regulatory requirements for road use i.e. it's taxed, insured, roadworthy etc. You should hold the appropriate driving licence for that vehicle combination and the loaded weight of the trailer must not exceed the quad's towing capacity. You should refer to the owner's manual or contact original manufacturer for its towing capacity.

**Is a licence required to drive a quad bike on the public road?** Yes.

**What age can I drive a quad with a trailer on the public road what licence is required?** The type of licence will depend on the weight and power of the quad bike. For information on driving licences see breakdown of licence categories [here](#).

**Can minors use quad bikes?** Quad bikes used in a public place require the driver to have a licence. Therefore, the minimum age is 16 for light quads 350 kg or less with a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h otherwise it is 17 years. Minors using quad bikes on private property fall under the remit of [Health and Safety Authority](#).

**Are roll over bars required to be fitted to quad bikes?** No. Research has shown that roll over bars are more likely to increase the likelihood of injury by obstructing the rider either when thrown off or when jumping off during an overturn. For further information contact HSA at 1890 289 389.

**Is a seat belt required on a quad?** No. But if one is fitted it should be worn.

**Do quads require roadworthiness testing?** No. However under road traffic law it is the owner and driver's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is kept in a roadworthy condition at all times when used in a public place including footpath. All parts and equipment must be in good working order. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

**What safety aspects do I need to take into account before driving a quad bike?** The HSA have general information for the safe use of quad bikes (ATVs) in Agriculture and Forestry, see a link to their webpage [here](#).

**How do I register a quad bike?** You will need to contact [Revenue](#).

**Where can I get a CoC to register my quad?** You will need to contact the original manufacturer. If the manufacturer cannot supply a CoC it means the quad was not designed or intended for use on a public road and therefore must only be used off-road i.e. on the farm or a purpose built track.

**Is it a requirement to wear a helmet when riding on or driving quads?** No, currently it is not a legal requirement as the regulations regarding the compulsory wearing of helmets relate to two and three wheeled vehicles only. However, we would strongly recommend that you always wear a helmet for your own safety. The wearing of helmets on quads used on private property e.g. farms, purpose built tracks is a matter for the [Department of Agriculture](#).

**Do RSA plan to extend the compulsory wearing of safety helmets to quads?** The safety of road users is paramount to us, and we are committed to promoting the importance of wearing crash helmets when operating such vehicles in the future. We will review this matter with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and may incorporate a policy change in future amendments of the existing regulations as appropriate.

**Is it illegal to carry children on a public road in a quad towing a trailer?** Yes. As enforcement of road traffic legislation is a matter for the Gardai, we advise that suspected breaches of this legislation should be reported to them. Road traffic-related incidents can also be reported to Traffic Watch on 1890 205 805.

**Can I carry a passenger on a quad?** No. Unless it has been originally manufactured to carry a passenger.

**My quad is for off road use only, can I use the public road to get from one field to another?**

If used on a public road which includes a footpath quads are subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other mechanically propelled vehicles as mentioned above. However, enforcement of these regulations is a matter for An Garda Síochána so ultimately the discretion lies with them.

**Can I drive off-road quad tyres on the public road?** Tyres fitted to a vehicle being used on the road require type approval i.e. e-marked, s-marked and have a minimum 1.6 mm tread depth. If off-road tyres meet with these requirements, then they can be used on a public road. Some off-road tyres are marked '*for off-road use only*' and may not be used on a public road. You can also refer to our booklet [Guide to Tyre Safety](#).

**I only use quad on farm. Does it need tax and insurance etc.?** No.