

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

*Information guide – Rural industry***33. Use of helmets when operating quad bikes (ATVs)****Background**

Quad bike incidents are now among the leading causes of injuries and deaths on farms, with around 35 per cent of fatalities involve head injuries.

Every time you use a quad bike you should wear a securely fitting helmet as the best protection you have against a head injury.

Farmers in control of the farm workplace have responsibilities under work health and safety laws. They must provide safe systems of work for workers and visitors to the workplace, which includes operating quad bikes on farms.

Choosing an appropriate helmet

A variety of motorcycle helmets are available in Australia including full face, open face and shorty styles.

Operators need to be aware of the available helmet options approved under AS1698 and choose the most appropriate for their situation, weather conditions and the task being undertaken.



Open face and full face motor cycle helmets. (Photo source: *Quad bikes on farms* WorkSafe Victoria).

Full-face helmets are useful where there is a higher risk of facial injuries, for example, riding through scrub.

Open face helmets offer similar protection to the head as full face helmets, though little protection to the face.

The 'shorty' style helmet may be more suited to some tasks on rural properties (e.g. mustering in open country) as it provides head protection while still enabling good peripheral vision and hearing, is lighter and cooler than a full face helmet.



Shorty style helmet

Helmets approved under the New Zealand standard NZ8600:2002 are also available although only on quad bikes ridden at low speed i.e. not exceeding 30 kilometres per hour, for example in nursery operations.



New Zealand approved quad bike helmet (Photo source: *Quad bike safety on farms* New Zealand Department of Labour)

More information

For more information about workplace health and safety visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call WHS Infoline on 1300 369 915.

Visit the website to download the [Rural Plant Code of Practice 2004](#).

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