

Coaching Guide 7

Safety around Quad Bikes

Aim: To make clear the rules about quad bike use and the consequences for not following the rules

The policy on quad bikes is in place to ensure that they are operated without risk to operators or others. Rules include authorised use only and safe use (e.g. observing speed limits, 'no go' zones, and wearing PPE). There are significant consequences for employees if they do not follow these rules. At the end of the coaching session, employees will be able to recall the rules on-farm and describe the reasoning behind why the rule is in place.

As an employer or person conducting a business on the farm, you have a legal responsibility to ensure that everyone who uses quad bikes is safe.

Note: this coaching guide is about the rules on the farm. It is NOT designed to assist with training your employee to use the quad bike.

Before coaching starts

Does the employee have prior training, knowledge or experience using quad bikes?

Will your new employee need to use a quad bike to do their farm tasks?

If yes, you will need to plan the required training, supervision and induction.

Prepare yourself to discuss the safety concerns of using quad bikes on your farm.

- Quad bikes are the leading cause of on farm fatalities in Australia.
- They are also the leading cause of death of children on farms between the ages of 5 and 14 years.
- The main causes of death and severe injury are tipping and rollover resulting in crush injury and asphyxia, neck and head injury.

There are some great Worksafe videos available that can support you in your discussions

Be clear about the rules in your policy. For example: 'We are absolutely committed to reducing the risk of injury associated with the use of quad bikes on this farm and the following rules apply in all circumstances'

- Only authorised tasks involve the use of quad bikes
- Only authorised persons are permitted to operate quad bikes
- No children under the age of 16 are to be authorised to operate quads
- All authorised operators are to be trained, inducted and competent in the quad to use it
- Road use is limited to registered bikes and current vehicle licence holders
- The Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be followed

Make sure your employee has access to your quad bike policy and use it to talk to your new employee about the rules.

Be clear about the consequences of not following the policy and the rules on-farm. Disciplinary action, dismissal, or termination of contract.

The dangers of quad bikes

- ❑ Despite having four sturdy wheels, quad bikes can be surprisingly difficult to handle. Much of the steering and control is done through body position and weight distribution across the vehicle. The centre of gravity is relatively high (increasing the tendency to tip).
- ❑ Quad bikes are a serious safety hazard – many quad bike accidents have caused death through tipping and rollover resulting in crush injury and asphyxia, neck and head injury.
- ❑ It is important that the employee appreciates the significance of this coaching session and the policy of the farm. Use information around fatalities and injuries on-farm to highlight the importance and extreme risk riding quad bikes has.

Engage in conversation about safe use and check understanding through questioning

Why are quads so dangerous?

Why do we have a policy and rules on quad bike use on farm?

Farm rules about quad bike use

- ❑ Clearly outline the rules to the new employee, as based on your farm policy. Suggestions for your policy and what rules to cover are given above on page one.
- ❑ Get the employee to repeat the rules to you, to ensure understanding. Use the questions below to also support this discussion.
- ❑ Role model safe behaviour at all times as a coach, especially for helmets and proper riding in seated position- as per SOP
- ❑ **Discuss next steps of training, if the employee is to become an authorised user and re-affirm quad bikes are NOT to be used until competency is confirmed**

Explain an 'authorised task'

What is meant by an "authorised task" to use quad bikes?

Show your new employee where to find policies on Dairy Passport, or on the farm.

What is a quad bike used for on the farm?

Can you find the policy on quad bikes on Dairy Passport? Let's do that together now.

Explain who is an 'authorised person'

How do you know if you are allowed to use the quad bikes?

Affirm age prohibited (under 16yrs old)

What age people are prohibited as riders or passengers on quads?

Affirm group prohibited

Are visitors allowed as riders or passengers on quads?

Reinforce the consequences if the rules are not followed

What could happen if you don't follow these rules?