

ATVs in Ontario

The use of ATVs within the province Province of Ontario is governed by two separate statutes: The Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) and Regulation 316/03 (Reg 316/03) to the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario.

Off Road Vehicles Act

Application: The ORVA applies to the operation of off-road vehicles on crown land and private property.

Vehicles: All vehicles registered as off-road vehicles are covered under this legislation. Off-road vehicles are varied in configuration.



Documentation & Licensing: The ORVA requires an operator to have his/her machine registered, plated, and insured. Registration and insurance documents must be produced upon demand of a peace officer. There are no licensing requirements; however, persons under the age of 12 are to be immediately supervised by an adult. Helmet worn at all times on all classes of off-road vehicles

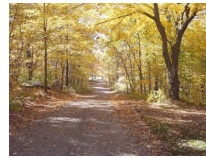
Regulation 316/03

Application: Reg 316/03 applies to the operation of ATVs on highways. **ATV** is a class of off-road vehicle narrowly defined as:

- having 4 low pressure bearing tires (10 psi) in continuous contact with the ground;
- steered by handlebar;
- having a straddle seat; and
- is designed for driver only and no passengers.



Highway is any road intended for use by motor vehicles and includes the shoulder and ditch portions. Reg 316/03 specifies three schedules of highways. *Schedule A* are multi-lane, high traffic count highways and are prohibited; *Schedule B* are highways where ATVs are permitted if the host municipality has enacted a bylaw enabling access; and *Schedule C* are highways in unorganized townships that are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation. Search e-laws.gov.on.ca for a complete listing of highways in each schedule.



Vehicles: only those vehicles defined as ATVs are permitted on highways. This excludes all machines designed to carry more than the operator. The following images are off-road vehicles and are not permitted on highways other than highways classed as *schedule C*.



- a. designed to carry a passenger;
- b. more than four tires and designed to carry passengers;
- c. not low pressure bearing tires; and
- d. not straddle seat, carries passengers, has steering wheel.

Documentation & Licensing: only persons possessing a valid G2 or higher class of drivers' license may operate ATVs on highways. Insurance and registration are mandatory.

Rules & Equipment: Headlamps on at all times. Travel on shoulder of the highway. Speed limit of 20 kph where speed limit is 50 kph and under. 50 kph where speed limit is greater than 50 kph. Helmet must be worn at all times.