

1 Department of Natural Resources

2

3 Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to All-Terrain Vehicles

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5 Rules as Adopted

6 6102.0010 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND DISPLAY OF
7 NUMBERS.

8 Subpart 1. **Application.** Application for all-terrain
9 vehicle (ATV) registration must be made to the commissioner of
10 natural resources or authorized agent on the form prescribed by
11 the commissioner. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
12 before applying for registration of an ATV. Upon payment of the
13 required fee, an ATV registration certificate will be issued.
14 Public use registration certificates are valid for three years
15 beginning January 1 of the year in which the machine is
16 registered. Private use registration certificates and decals
17 are valid until ownership is transferred. Private use decals
18 must be a unique color from that used for public use decals.

19 Subp. 2. **Required information.** The applicant shall
20 furnish all the information required by the application for ATV
21 registration.

22 Subp. 3. **Attachment of number and decals.** The public use
23 registration number of the ATV, shown on the registration
24 certificate, along with the validation decal, must be attached
25 to the ATV. The required registration number and decal must be
26 displayed on a plate not less than four inches high and 7-1/2
27 inches wide, which is clearly visible on the back of the
28 machine, at least 12 inches from the ground, and must be
29 maintained in a clear, legible manner. The decal for public use
30 must be displayed in the upper-left section of the plate and the
31 private use decal must be displayed in the upper-right section
32 of the plate. ATVs registered only for private use must only
33 display the validation decal.

34 Subp. 4. **Description of decal and number.** All letters and
35 numbers required to be displayed must be of a color that will

1 contrast with the surface to which applied, and shall be at
2 least 1-1/2 inches high and one-fourth inch stroke. The private
3 use registration number assigned by the commissioner of natural
4 resources must be imprinted on the validation decal, but the
5 registration number does not need to be displayed separately on
6 the plate.

7 Subp. 5. Lost or destroyed number or decal. When any
8 previously affixed registration number or decal is lost or
9 destroyed, a duplicate shall be affixed in the same manner as
10 the original. The registration number for public use
11 registration remains the same if renewed within one calendar
12 year of the expiration date.

13 Subp. 6. Duplicate certificate. A duplicate registration
14 certificate will be issued upon application by the owner to the
15 commissioner of natural resources and upon payment of the fee.
16 Replacement registration decals may be obtained from the
17 Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Licenses, or any
18 conservation officer.

19 Subp. 7. Reporting of abandoned, stolen, or destroyed
20 ATV. An abandoned, stolen, or destroyed ATV must be reported to
21 the commissioner within 15 days by completing the reverse side
22 of the registration certificate. A fee is not charged for the
23 reporting.

24 6102.0020 DEALER'S AND MANUFACTURER'S REGISTRATION.

25 Subpart 1. Demonstration or testing purposes. Application
26 for registration of all ATVs owned by a dealer and operated for
27 demonstration or testing purposes within this state must be made
28 on the prescribed form to the commissioner of natural
29 resources. On payment of the fee required by law, three
30 registration plates will be issued, together with a registration
31 certificate which must be conspicuously displayed in the
32 dealer's place of business.

33 Subp. 2. Research, experimentation, or demonstration
34 purposes. Application for registration of all ATVs owned by a
35 manufacturer and operated for research testing, experimentation,

1 or demonstration purposes must be made to the commissioner on
 2 the prescribed form. On payment of the fee, 12 registration
 3 plates will be issued, together with a registration certificate
 4 which must be conspicuously displayed in the manufacturer's
 5 place of business.

6 Subp. 3. ~~Duplicate-plates---Additional-duplicate~~
 7 ~~registration-plates-may-be-purchased-by-a-dealer-or-manufacturer~~
 8 ~~upon-payment-of-a-fee-of-\$3-per-plate.~~

9 Subp. ~~4.~~ Display required. A dealer or manufacturer may
 10 not operate or permit to be operated within this state any ATV
 11 owned by or under the control of a dealer or manufacturer unless
 12 a valid registration plate is clearly displayed on the ATV.

13 6102.0030 SPECIAL PERMITS.

14 On written application by the responsible event sponsor to
 15 the commissioner of natural resources, special operating permits
 16 for limited periods of time may be issued to operators of ATVs
 17 from states that do not require registration when the ATVs are
 18 to be used in connection with an organized group outing, trail
 19 ride, race, rally, or other promotional event. The permit must
 20 be in a form prescribed by the commissioner, must be
 21 conspicuously displayed on the ATV, is valid only when the ATV
 22 is used in connection with the event for which the permit was
 23 issued, and is valid for the period of time shown on the permit.

24 6102.0040 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.

25 Subpart 1. All-terrain vehicles. An ATV may not be
 26 operated on public lands, waters, and trails or on public
 27 streets and highways which are open to ATV use unless equipped
 28 with:

29 A. When operating during hours of darkness, an ATV
 30 must have at least one headlamp having a minimum candlepower of
 31 sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a
 32 distance of at least 100 feet ahead under normal atmospheric
 33 conditions. The headlamp must be so aimed that glaring rays are
 34 not projected into the eyes of oncoming vehicle operators.

35 B. When operating during hours of darkness, an ATV

1 must have at least one red tail lamp, having a minimum
2 candlepower of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light,
3 plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear under
4 normal atmospheric conditions.

5 C. Brakes adequate to control the movement of, and to
6 stop, and to hold the ATV under normal operating conditions.

7 D. A throttle so designed that when pressure used to
8 advance the throttle is removed, the engine will immediately and
9 automatically return to idle.

10 Subp. 2. Sled, trailer, or device towed by ATV. A sled,
11 trailer, or other device being towed by an ATV during the hours
12 of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions must be equipped
13 as follows:

14 A. Unobstructed and visible reflective material of at
15 least 16 square inches must be mounted on each side and at the
16 rear of the sled, trailer, or device.

17 B. The reflection material required must have at
18 least the minimum intensity values prescribed in Table II of the
19 Federal Specifications L-S-300C, dated March 29, 1979, or be in
20 accordance with Reflex Reflectors, Society of Automotive
21 Engineers, SAE J594F, which are incorporated by reference, are
22 not subject to frequent change, and are universally available.
23 The manufacturer's trade name, or other decorative material, if
24 meeting minimum reflectorization standards, may be included in
25 computing the required 16 square inch area.

26 Subp. 3. Maker's permanent identification number. All
27 ATVs made after January 1, 1995, and sold in this state must
28 bear the maker's permanent identification number so placed and
29 of such size as follows:

30 A. shall be permanently stamped into the steering
31 head or on a frame member on the forward half of the vehicle;

32 B. have a height of numerals and letters of not less
33 than four millimeters; and

34 C. be readable without removing any part of the
35 vehicle.

36 Each ATV so manufactured must bear an individual number

1 that must not be duplicated by that maker at any time within the
2 succeeding ten years.

3 Subp. 4. Mufflers. A person may not operate an ATV unless
4 it is equipped with a functioning spark arrestor type muffler as
5 required by Minnesota Statutes and/or equipped with a United
6 States Forest Service approved spark arrestor or combination
7 thereof.

8 An ATV manufactured after January 1, 1994, except an ATV
9 designed for competition purposes only, may not be sold, offered
10 for sale, or operated in this state unless it is so equipped
11 that overall noise emission does not exceed a sound level
12 limitation of not more than 99 decibels on the A scale from a
13 distance of 20 inches using test procedures and instrumentation
14 as set forth in the Society of Automotive Engineers' Standard,
15 SAE J1287, June 1988.

16 No noise suppressing system or muffler shall be equipped
17 with a cutout, bypass, or similar device and no person shall
18 modify or alter that system or its operation in any manner which
19 will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the ATV's motor to
20 exceed the noise limits established in this subpart, except for
21 organized events as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section
22 84.928.

23 6102.0050 PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS, TRAILS, AND ROADWAYS.

24 Subpart 1. Traffic control. To control traffic on public
25 lands, waters, and trails, all ATV operators must comply with
26 items A to G.

27 A. Trail signs must be obeyed.

28 B. One-way trails must be traveled in the direction
29 indicated.

30 C. When on a trail treadway, an operator must stay on
31 the right half of the treadway when meeting or being passed by
32 another trail user.

33 D. When passing another trail user traveling in the
34 same direction, an operator must pass on the left half of the
35 treadway and may pass only when the left half is clearly visible

1 and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead
2 to permit overtaking and passing to be completely made without
3 interfering with the safety of any trail user.

4 E. Any trail user who is about to enter onto or cross
5 a trail treadway shall yield the right-of-way to any trail user
6 already on the treadway to be entered or crossed.

7 F. When two trail users are about to enter an
8 otherwise unmarked treadway intersection from different
9 treadways at approximately the same time, or are approaching an
10 otherwise unmarked merger of two treadways from any two
11 directions at approximately the same time, the trail user on the
12 right shall have the right-of-way.

13 G. Trail users shall yield to nonmotorized trail
14 users and shall shut off their machines when meeting a horse
15 until the horse has passed or until waved on by the rider or
16 driver of the horse.

17 Subp. 2. Operation of ATVs. It is unlawful on any public
18 lands, waters, trails, or public road rights-of-way open for ATV
19 use for any person to drive or operate an ATV in any of the
20 following ways:

21 A. At a speed greater than is reasonable or proper
22 under all of the surrounding circumstances or greater than the
23 posted speed limit. When necessary, the commissioner of natural
24 resources may establish and post at reasonable intervals a
25 reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for the operation of
26 ATVs along a specific portion of the trail or in areas under the
27 commissioner's jurisdiction. The speed limit is effective when
28 signs are erected and any operation of an ATV within the posted
29 portion of the trail or area in excess of the posted speed limit
30 is unlawful.

31 The speed limit may be waived in writing by the
32 commissioner of natural resources for an organized race or
33 similar competitive event held upon lands, waters, or trails.

34 B. Without a lighted headlamp and tail lamp when
35 operated at night or during reduced visibility.

36 Subp. 3. Regulations by governmental subdivisions.

1 Governmental subdivisions may, by ordinance, regulate the
2 operation of ATVs on public waters within their boundaries,
3 provided the ordinance is approved by the commissioner of
4 natural resources and is not inconsistent with law or rule. An
5 ordinance affecting ATV use on public waters is not valid with
6 respect to such action unless first submitted to the
7 commissioner of natural resources and approved in writing.

8 Subp. 4. Official use. This part does not apply to any
9 person lawfully engaged in the performance of the development,
10 maintenance, and operation of such trails, including but not
11 limited to the commissioner of natural resources, agents or
12 employees of the commissioner, persons operating under contract
13 with the Department of Natural Resources, and law enforcement
14 officers.

15 6102.0060 UNIFORM SIGNS.

16 Subpart 1. General. The signs in this part are designated
17 as necessary and desirable to control, direct, or regulate the
18 operation and use of ATVs for the purposes indicated.

19 Subp. 2. Informational and directional signs.
20 Informational and directional signs are used to indicate
21 intersections or changes in trail direction through use of a
22 nine-inch by 12-inch diamond-shaped sign with an appropriate
23 decal or comparable screen insignia as specified in the
24 Department of Natural Resources Sign Manual.

25 Subp. 3. Reassuring sign. A five-inch by seven-inch
26 diamond-shaped reassurance blazer shall be placed along the
27 trail often enough to reassure that the user is on the trail.

28 Subp. 4. Sign color. The signs in subparts 2 and 3 shall
29 be yellow-lime in color.

30 Subp. 5. Insignias. Decals, if used, shall have a
31 background of yellow-lime with the insignia screened in black.
32 Black insignias may be screened directly onto signs.

33 Subp. 6. ATV signs. ATV signs 12 inches by 12 inches are
34 used to indicate trails and areas where ATV use is permitted.
35 Background color shall be yellow-lime. The ATV symbol shall be

1 black.

2 Subp. 7. **ATV prohibited sign.** ATV signs 12 inches by 12
3 inches are used to indicate trails and areas where ATV use is
4 prohibited. Background color shall be yellow-lime. The ATV
5 symbol shall be black, prohibiting slash solid black.

6 Subp. 8. **Other ATV signs.** Other signs will be developed
7 as needed consistent with the Department of Natural Resources
8 Sign Manual for ATV trails and areas.

9 Subp. 9. **Signing.** A sign intended for any of the purposes
10 in subpart 8 may not be erected by the state or its governmental
11 subdivisions unless the sign is in the form, shape, dimensions,
12 and colors prescribed in subpart 8.

13 When specified, yellow-lime signs shall be PMS 396 or
14 equivalent; PMS 396, dated 1977, published by Pantone, Inc., is
15 incorporated by reference, is not subject to frequent change,
16 and is universally available. Detailed plans and specifications
17 of the signs are available upon written request to the
18 commissioner of natural resources.