

# LAW GOVERNING OFF-ROAD VEHICLES



In Quebec, the Law governing off-road vehicles regulates the utilization of snowmobiles and ATV's. Many myths and legends exist as it pertains to this law.

*Let's put an end to these myths !!!*

## WHERE CAN I TRAVEL WITH MY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ?

It is strictly forbidden !

>For any off-road vehicle to travel on any public roadway or its shoulder.

However, according to the Law governing off-road vehicles:

>You may travel *on your own private property...*

>On any other private property with *authorization (preferably in written form)* from the owner...

>Or on a *private road*, unless the owner or person responsible has indicated otherwise by way of signs.

Finally, you may travel on any trail that is identified and maintained by a club. The regulation that states off-road vehicles may travel on the shoulder of a public roadway for a distance not exceeding one kilometre only applies to roadways recognized as trails by law, *and only if you hold a valid driver's licence.*

## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE !

Driving any off-road vehicle while under the influence constitutes a criminal offence.



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## AT WHAT AGE CAN I DRIVE AN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ?

Any off-road vehicle driver must be *16 years of age and older*. If under 18 years of age, the driver must be the holder of an aptitudes and knowledge certificate issued by a recognized club. Drivers aged between 14 and 16 who presently have a valid aptitudes and knowledge certificate which was issued before June 13, 2006, are exempt of this restriction.

## MY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE MUST BE EQUIPPED...

- >with a white headlight which is always on;
- >with a rear red sidelight;
- >an exhaust system in good working condition;
- >a braking system in good working condition;
- >and any off-road vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1998, must be equipped :
  - with a rear red braking light;
  - with a rear-view mirror on the left-hand side;
  - with a speedometer.

## BEFORE I TAKE OFF, I MUST...

- >wear a helmet in compliance with standards...
- >have proper footwear...
- >have my registration documents, insurance document with liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000.00, valid driver's licence or a document attesting my age (ex : medical card), aptitudes and knowledge certificate (if under 18 years of age). If a rental, have in your possession a copy of the rental agreement.

## SPEED...???

The maximum speed allowed for an ATV is 50 km/h and 70 km/h for a snowmobile. Anything in excess of these speed limits may result in a fine plus applicable fees.

## PASSENGER, YES OR NO ?

There are no passengers on any off-road vehicle, unless there is additional equipment installed according to manufacturer's standards.

## Ready... Or not???

- Before taking off, I will ensure I will be travelling on recognized and authorized trails only.
- Am I old enough to drive an off-road vehicle?
- I have inspected the equipment of my vehicle.
- I have in my possession all required documents.
- I drive safely, while respecting the environment.

Any offence relating to the law governing off-road vehicles may result in the issuance of a fine ranging from \$100.00 to \$500.00, plus related fees.

The Public Security Service of the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais have in place a team of officers responsible for the enforcement of the Law governing off-road vehicles.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the members of our Operational Support Unit at 819-459-2422 or toll free at 1-877-459-2422.

In conclusion, please remember that it is a sport...  
Drive carefully !!

**Don't forget :**  
**no one is in a better position than yourself to ensure your safety !**

**Have a safe trip !**