

Quad Safety

The use of ATV/Quad Bikes is becoming more and more common on farms and forests and for many other sectors such as road works, airports, military ATV's/Quads are essential pieces of equipment. However, there have been a significant number of fatalities involving quads and the potential for a serious injury or fatality when using a quad is high.

The main causes of serious or fatal injury associated with ATV/Quad Bikes are:

- being thrown off during vehicle overturns or after loss of control;
- collisions with structures, trees, poles, other vehicles etc.;
- being trapped/asphyxiated under an overturned machine;
- being drowned under a quad bike overturned in a water course;
- pedestrians being struck or run over by an ATV/Quad Bikes.

Regulations governing the safe use of ATV/Quad Bikes in all workplaces (SI 619/2021) come into effect on 20 November 2023. [Regulation 619/2021](#)

These regulations have 2 essential requirements of note:

1. Training to be undertaken with a registered training provider to a QQI standard or equivalent
2. Use of helmets to a (generally) prescribed standard

Training

The existing QQI ATV training standard is at level 5 (5N1752) with the stated purpose of:

The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the relevant knowledge, skill and competence to drive and handle an all-terrain vehicle in a safe manner in compliance with relevant legislation.

Only training to this QQI Standard or equivalent is acceptable for compliance with the regulations, therefore, when seeking out training ensure the quad bike training provider confirms that the course provided is to this QQI standard or equivalent.

Training Providers

Persons seeking out training must ensure that the training provided is to the QQI Standard or equivalent. The majority of ATV/Quad Bike training providers in Ireland train to the Lantra Standard, which is equivalent to the QQI standard. A listing of training providers can be accessed at <https://www.lantra.co.uk/product/35434> and use '**Search for providers near you**' at the bottom of the page. This will bring up the list of providers offering the course in your immediate area.

You may also contact [QQI](#) and [City & Guilds](#) for information on approved ATV/Quad Bike training providers.

Helmets

Helmet types suitable for ATV/Quad Bike operations, depending on the circumstances of use, are motorcycle helmets and specialist ATV helmets. All helmets should have a chinstrap and be capable of being used with suitable eye protection. The type of helmet chosen must be based on an assessment of the circumstances in which the ATV/Quad Bike will be used, e.g. the types of surface travelled over and anticipated speeds. The harder the surface and higher the speed the greater the degree of protection needed. Standard industrial hard hats, forestry helmets and cyclist helmets are not acceptable for any ATV/Quad Bike operations. Importantly, 'All quad bike helmets should fit comfortably and securely, to ensure full protection.'

- Consider the risk of overturning on sloping ground
- Professional training is essential before using an ATV
- Never carry a passenger on an ATV
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including a helmet

Grant Aid

National Farm Safety Measure 2023 promotes farm safety by incentivising farmers to purchase and use farm safety equipment. It will provide a financial contribution to participating farmers for new quad helmets and PTO shaft covers, covering 60% of the eligible cost.

Applicants (or their advisor) must complete an online Application Form on www.agfood.ie, the Department's online service by selecting the 'AgSchemes-Expression of Interest' and then 'National Farm Safety Measure 2023'

Payment will only be made on valid claims. The minimum amount of investment is one quad bike (ATV) helmet or one PTO shaft cover. The maximum amount of aid under the measure is for two quad bike (ATV) helmets and four PTO shaft covers. The grant aid will be at a rate of 60% subject to a maximum eligible cost of €100 per PTO shaft cover and €150 per quad bike (ATV) helmet.

Participants that have submitted a Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) application in 2023 are eligible to apply. To qualify for payment for quad bike (ATV) helmets, the participant must own/lease a quad bike (ATV). To qualify for payment for PTO shaft covers, the PTO must be fitted to a PTO-powered agricultural implement under the participant's control.

For information on the Measure go to gov.ie - [National Farm Safety Measure 2023](#)