

# Quad Bikes

the rules



we care  
we listen  
we act



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland

Quad bikes must be approved, registered, taxed and have an MOT (see below) to be used on the road.

However most quad bikes cannot be used on the road because they do not meet road safety standards.

Check with the manufacturer if your quad bike has been approved for road use. If your quad bike has not been approved but meets road safety standards, you can apply for 'type approval'. This can be done through the Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval (MSVA) scheme which the DVLA carry out at its Lisburn test centre.

## Rules for riding quad bikes on the road

### Registering

You must register your quad bike with DVLA and the bike must have front and rear number plates.

### MOT certificates

Quad bikes used on the road need a valid MOT certificate if they are more than four years old. (Different rules apply for agricultural quads).

### Driving licence

To drive a quad bike on the road you need to have a full car licence or a category B1 licence if it was issued before January 1997.

### Insurance

You must have third party insurance to drive a quad bike on the road.

### Passengers

A quad bike can only carry passengers if it is designed to do so and has the right number of seats. Check with the manufacturer if you're not sure.

### Crash helmets

You must wear a helmet if you're riding a quad bike on a public road in Northern Ireland. You can be fined up to £500 if you do not.



## Using a quad bike off-road

You do not need a driving licence to ride a quad bike off-road.

You do not have to tax and register your quad bike if you're only going to use it off-road. However, there is an off-road register, where you can record the details of your off-road quad bike, which could help the police find it if it's stolen. More information can be found online at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/protect-your-off-road-vehicle-using-form-INF85](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protect-your-off-road-vehicle-using-form-INF85)

## Agricultural quad bikes

If you're using a quad bike for agriculture, horticulture and forestry work you need to register it as a light agricultural vehicle.

### Using an agricultural quad bike on the road

An agricultural quad bike used on the road does not need an MOT, but must be registered and licensed for road use and must have a number plate and third party insurance.

It will also need lights if it's being used on the road after dark.

### Vehicle tax

You do not have to pay vehicle tax on quad bikes used for agriculture, horticulture or forestry.

If you do have to pay tax, the class will depend on how you use your quad bike:

- limited use tax class for bikes used on the road
- agricultural machine class for bikes not licensed for road use


### Passengers

Quad bikes used as light agricultural vehicles should be made with only a driver's seat. They are not allowed to carry passengers.

## Scramblers

These are designed primarily for off road use only. If they are to be used on a road then they must comply with the same rules as for all other motorbikes i.e. the correct driving licence category for the size of engine, insurance, MOT and must be taxed and registered.





For further information call the police  
on the non emergency number **101**  
and ask for your local crime prevention  
officer or report online.

[www.psnl.police.uk](http://www.psnl.police.uk)



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