Victoria Leads the Way to Improve Quad Safety

An announcement today by Worksafe Victoria that Crush Protection Devices (CPDs) will be required on quads as part of a broader quad safety program, has been welcomed by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety.

“This is a significant step forward to assist farmers in improving safety” said Dr Tony Lower the Centre Director. “With quads accounting for 15 on-farm deaths in 2015 and being the leading cause of injury deaths for the fifth consecutive year in Australia, this is a very positive development. It provides certainty for farmers on the issue.”

“Deaths resulting from rollovers, crush injuries and asphyxiation are the dominate feature of farm incidents. So any quad safety program that ignores this issue is extremely limited and will not be as effective as it should be.”

This has not been a quick decision, but the requirement builds on evidence presented at coronial inquests in NSW and Queensland that were completed in 2015.

“Victoria’s action on CPDs will likely have implications across all states of Australia” stated Lower. “It could also have broader international consequences, particularly in North America where the bulk of quads are used.”

Victoria now joins Israel which introduced and still maintains similar requirements in the early 1990’s, by requiring that riders are protected from risks in a rollover.

Any quad safety program must have a range of approaches working together and Victoria’s requirements on CPDs will now fill an existing gap in these programs.

Recommendations to reduce deaths and injury (see chart) start with selecting the safest vehicle for the task. In the majority of cases, this will not be a quad. However, if a quad is still to be used, then a suitably tested crush protection device must be fitted. Keeping children off quads of any size, not carrying passengers or loads / spray tanks, instruction/training, regular maintenance and wearing a helmet are also important preventive actions.

A wide range of materials that can assist those that work and live on farms to reduce risks to themselves, farm workers, family members and visitors, is available from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety or call 02 6752 8210 for further information. www.aghealth.org.au

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Effective</th>
<th>Least Effective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elimination - don’t use the quad bike for the farm task</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment - wear an approved helmet</td>
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<td>Substitution - use a more stable machine such as a tractor, farm ute or side-by-side vehicle</td>
<td>Administrative Controls - ensure training, induction and rider supervision (strictly no passengers of any age, no loads/spray tanks, regular vehicle maintenance and no children under 16 riding quads of any size)</td>
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<tr>
<td>....if still deciding to use a quad bike</td>
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<td>Engineering Control - fit a tested crush protective device (CPD)</td>
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