

## **ATV user and safety manual**

Please make sure you read the user manual before driving the ATV.

- This is paramount for the safety of yourself and others. It is important that you use the ATV safely.
- Please be rational when driving as this contributes significantly to your safety.

### **Age restrictions**

You must be at least 12 years old in order to drive the ATV. Children under 12 years of age should not drive an ATV operating with an engine of 70cc or larger.

### **Wearing a helmet is mandatory**

A helmet reduces substantially the risk of suffering head injury, which is why you must wear an appropriate biker helmet. The helmet is the most important part of the driver's equipment as it offers the best protection against head injuries. It must be comfortable and fit well. Always wear protective goggles and equipment.

### **ATVs must not carry more than one person**

ATVs are designed to carry only one person. They do not include additional handle bars, footrests or seats for passengers, so please do not allow them on the vehicle. An additional person may cause imbalance and loss of control over the vehicle.

### **Drive on terrain**

ATVs are designed and built to be used solely on terrain. The tires are not suitable for driving on paved roads. ATVs have no turn signals or other functions necessary for driving on public roads. When driving on terrain always follow the traffic regulations and local requirements. If you want to drive on a private land, ask the owner's permission first. Avoid marked areas and respect the 'Private Land' signs.

### **Position of hands and feet on the steering devices**

When driving the ATV always keep both hands on the steering control and both feet on the footrests. This is required for maintaining balance and control over the vehicle. Removing one hand from the steering control or one foot from the footrest may cause losing control over the ATV or becoming imbalanced and falling off.

### **Be aware of the dangers you may face on terrain**

When driving on terrain you must be ready to face all kinds of dangers. Keep your eyes open at all times so as to notice unexpected turns, steep hills, rocks, ditches and other dangers. Make sure that your speed is low enough to respond to dangers. Pay particular attention when driving on unknown terrain and maintain low speed. In addition, be careful when navigating through uneven terrain. In case of limited visibility avoid high speed. Maintain safe distance between your ATV and other terrain vehicles.

## **Follow the speed limits**

Driving at a high speed is the main cause for accidents. Know your limits and avoid driving faster than appropriate. Note that alcohol, drugs and distractions may significantly decrease your ability to drive safely and make the right decisions. Always drive at a speed that corresponds to your vehicle's abilities, the terrain, visibility and other circumstances as well as your driving experience.

## **Do not consume alcohol prior to driving**

Alcohol and ATVs do not go hand in hand. As such, do not consume alcohol prior to driving and stop your friends from driving after they have had a drink.

NB! The improper use of the ATV may cause a serious injury or lead to death.

## **Fit for driving**

You must be at least 12 years old in order to drive the ATV. Physical capabilities are extremely important! In order to assess whether the child is big enough to drive the ATV, let them stand on the footrests while holding the steering control with both hands. In this position there should be at least 7.5 cm gap between the seat and the child's bottom. Driving the ATV requires enough space for manoeuvring as this helps maintain the balance and stand comfortably as well as lean your body forward and backward. You must also make sure that the child reaches all steering control devices and that they are able to use them without any extra effort. Check whether the child is able to turn the steering control fully to the right and left and hold their feet on the brakes and on the shift gear knob as well as use the throttle and brake knobs while holding the steering control. If not, the child is not physically ready to drive the ATV.

**Good physical form** is essential for driving the ATV. In comparison, the child should be able to drive a bicycle before attempting to use the ATV. They must be able to estimate the speed and distance while riding a bicycle and use the steering devices accordingly. Children whose coordination, balance and mobility is poor are not ready to drive the ATV.

Equally important in driving safely is **the mental and emotional maturity**. Can the child predict issues and find logical solutions to resolve them? Does the child follow traffic regulations while riding a bicycle? Children who take unnecessary risks, make bad decisions and fail to follow the rules are not ready to drive the ATV.

## **Pre-drive check**

Before you mount on the ATV, check the following:

- Engine oil – check the levels and add oil, if necessary.
- Fuel – check the levels and add fuel, if necessary. Make sure the fuel tank cap is sealed properly. Check potential leaks.
- Tires – use a special meter to measure the tire pressure and adjust it, if necessary. Check them also for any potential damage and excessive wear-and-tear.

- Chain drive – check the condition and the backlash. Adjust and lubricate as needed. Check the swingarm plate and rollers for wear-and-tear and replace as needed.
- Nuts and bolts – check the wheels to ensure that all nuts and bolts are screwed tight. Use a wrench and check all accessible nuts, bolts and fasteners.
- Bottom part of the body – remove any dirt and other debris that may cause fire or impede the proper use of the vehicle.
- Leaks and loose parts – walk around the vehicle and search for anything that seems out of place, such as loose wires or leaks.
- Throttle – check the movement and adjust as needed. Push the throttle to ensure that it works properly and closes automatically after release regardless of the position of the steering control.
- Brakes – push the front and back brake knob and the back brake pedal to ensure that they all function properly. Check the neutral.
- Engine kill switch – check its proper functioning.
- Control system – ensure that the wheels turn smoothly when turning the steering control. Turn the steering control to the left and right and check any potential kickbacks.

### **Starting the engine**

For your safety avoid starting or running the engine in closed spaces, for example, in the garage. The exhaust system of the vehicle emits toxic carbon monoxide that may accumulate quickly in closed spaces, thus causing sickness or even death.

### **Manoeuvring**

Using a wrong technique while manoeuvring may lead to the loss of control over the ATV and cause an accident or toppling.

- Making a turn on a smooth surface – control the vehicle by using the steering control and lean forward in the curve. Leaning helps balance the vehicle and feel more comfortable. This is an important technique and it is absolutely essential to learn how to do that.
- Making a quick turn at a low speed – lean the body slightly forward and into the curve while turning the steering control. Leaning the weight forward helps control the back wheels more easily while improving the control of the front wheels.
- Making a turn after stopping – hit the throttle slowly while making the manoeuvre and starting the engine. Remember to lean forward when making quick manoeuvres at a low speed or if you are accelerating from the spot.

Do not make any manoeuvres at an extremely high speed.

### **Slipping**

Manoeuvring is significantly influenced by the surface properties. Slipping while making a turn will most likely occur on a slippery surface, e.g. ice, mud and loose gravel. Slipping on ice may lead to losing complete control over the direction. In order to avoid slipping on a slippery surface make sure you are driving at a low speed and remain careful. If your ATV starts skidding, steer it at the slipping direction. Avoid sudden braking or accelerating until you have regained control over the direction.

## Driving uphill

Using your vehicle safely while driving uphill depends on your skills and response time. Start by practicing on a smooth surface and smaller slopes. As you become more experienced, you will learn to sense the dangers and assess your skills. After that you may carry on by tackling rougher terrains. However, you still need to be able to assess what kinds of terrain or dangers may cause the ATV to topple. Avoid slopes that are too steep as your vehicle may topple much more easily compared to smooth surfaces. Do not drive your ATV on slopes that are too steep for the vehicle or for your skills.

When driving uphill lean your body forward toward the front wheels so that they stay in contact with the ground. To do this, swivel slightly forward on your seat. If you want to add further weight, move your whole body forward. Using a wrong technique when driving uphill may cause the loss of control over and toppling of your vehicle.

- Before driving uphill make sure you always check the terrain.
- Do not drive uphill if the surface is too slippery or loose.
- Start driving uphill by choosing the right gear and maintaining the correct speed. Maintain stable speed.
- Do not hit the throttle abruptly and avoid sudden gear shifts. Otherwise your ATV may topple backwards.
- Do not drive uphill at a high speed. Note that the other side of the slope may entail a decline or another vehicle or person.

### **What do I do if the engine stops and/or the vehicle starts shifting backwards?**

If your judgement on the terrain or the driving abilities of your ATV are wrong, the vehicle may not have enough traction power to drive uphill. This may cause the engine to stop and/or the vehicle to shift backwards. If the engine does not function properly, the vehicle shifts backwards and if you are using the wrong technique while unmounting the vehicle in the middle of the hill, it may cause the ATV to topple.

What can I do if the engine stops in the middle of the hill or the vehicle starts shifting backwards? If you are starting to lose speed while moving forward:

1. Hit the front and back brakes simultaneously and stop the ATV so that it faces directly the hillside
2. Unmount the ATV while still hitting the brakes
3. Disengage the gear, hit the parking brake and turn off the engine
4. Now assess the situation at hand

If the ATV starts shifting backwards before you hit the brakes:

- Lean your body forward
- Hit the front brakes carefully and then the back brakes the same way. Do not use solely the back brakes or brake suddenly when shifting backwards as this may cause the vehicle to topple

If your ATV continues shifting backwards: unmount the vehicle after braking and take a few steps away from it.

What do I do if the engine has stopped or the vehicle has shifted backwards?

If the hill is too steep or slippery or if you have doubts as to taking your vehicle downhill safely, leave it where it is and seek help. If possible, block the wheels so that the vehicle cannot shift further back.

If the hill is not too steep and the ground is firm, you can walk downhill while holding the vehicle. Make sure that the path is clear and no serious consequences follow if you lose control over your ATV.

1. Stand facing downhill next to your vehicle and see if you can easily control the back brake knob with your right hand.
2. Make sure that your feet are at a safe distance from the wheels and check that the ground is firm.
3. Push the ATV slowly and carefully downhill in reverse by using the back brake to control the speed.
4. If you lose control over the vehicle, step away from it to stay safe.

### **Driving downhill**

In normal conditions we recommend that you steer your ATV straight ahead. Avoid taking corners where the vehicle may suddenly lean on one side. If you drive downhill recklessly, you may lose your control over the vehicle or cause it to topple.

When driving downhill lean your body backwards. Once you have reached the hillside, stop and assess the situation. Do not drive to a place that you cannot see clearly. Avoid driving downhill at a high speed.

Once you have chosen a safe path downhill, switch to a low gear and lean backwards while holding your arms slightly apart and keeping them straight on the steering control. Now start descending slowly while keeping the throttle closed.

Use mainly the back brake to control the speed. When driving downhill avoid hitting the brakes suddenly or using excessive force.

Remember that braking on a loose surface while going downhill becomes more difficult.

### **Driving on hills and slopes and making manoeuvres**

Crossing hills and slopes is substantially different from driving on smooth surfaces. Be extra careful when driving on a hilly surface. Before tackling steep slopes and rough terrains, practice on smoother slopes.

If you cross hills and slopes recklessly, you may lose your control over the vehicle or cause it to topple. Where possible, avoid crossing steep slopes.

#### **Crossing slopes**

- In order to maintain balance and stability while crossing slopes you must lean yourself and the vehicle into the hillside. You can do this by really shifting into it.
- If you are driving on a slippery or loose surface or if you want to maintain your course, you may need to point the steering control uphill.
- Avoid crossing too steep, slippery or uneven slopes.

## Manoeuvring on slopes

- Compared to driving on a smooth surface, slopes may require using more bodyweight for leaning into the desired direction.
- Avoid driving on slopes until you have mastered the proper technique and you are able to manoeuvre easily on terrain.

## Driving through water

ATV tires have certain properties that allow driving through water. If you drive the vehicle through deep or high-flow water, it may lose traction power and this leads to losing control over it or suffering accidents. Do not drive your ATV in water that is deep or has high flow. Before crossing a stream make sure the water is not deep or high-low.

- Choose a path where both sides of the bank are smooth and even.
- Drive through the water slowly and smoothly.
- Be careful about underwater obstructions and slippery stones.
- Do not let the sparking plug or the air filter to get wet as this causes the engine to stop.
- After coming out of the water make sure to always check the front and back brakes. After driving through water the brakes may not function as effectively and the stopping distance becomes longer. If necessary, hit the brakes several times until they dry up and resume proper functioning.

**Driving an ATV is an experience of a lifetime! Drive safe!**