

**CHAPTER 6102**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES**

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**6102.0010 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND DISPLAY OF NUMBERS.**

**Subpart 1. Application.** Application for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) registration must be made to the commissioner of natural resources or authorized agent on the form prescribed by the commissioner. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older before applying for registration of an ATV. Upon payment of the required fee, an ATV registration certificate will be issued. Public use registration certificates are valid for three years beginning January 1 of the year in which the machine is registered. Private use registration certificates and decals are valid until ownership is transferred. Private use decals must be a unique color from that used for public use decals.

**Subp. 2. Required information.** The applicant shall furnish all the information required by the application for ATV registration.

**Subp. 3. Attachment of number and decals.** The public use registration number of the ATV, shown on the registration certificate, along with the validation decal, must be attached to the ATV. The required registration number and decal must be displayed on a plate not less than four inches high and 7-1/2 inches wide, which is clearly visible on the back of the machine, at least 12 inches from the ground, and must be maintained in a clear, legible manner. The decal for public use must be displayed in the upper-left section of the plate and the private use decal must be displayed in the upper-right section of the plate. ATVs registered only for private use must only display the validation decal.

**Subp. 4. Description of decal and number.** All letters and numbers required to be displayed must be of a color that will contrast with the surface to which applied, and shall be at least 1-1/2 inches high and one-fourth inch stroke. The private use registration number assigned by the commissioner of natural resources must be imprinted on the validation decal, but the registration number does not need to be displayed separately on the plate.

**Subp. 5. Lost or destroyed number or decal.** When any previously affixed registration number or decal is lost or destroyed, a duplicate shall be affixed in the same manner as the original. The registration number for public use registration remains the same if renewed within one calendar year of the expiration date.

**Subp. 6. Duplicate certificate.** A duplicate registration certificate will be issued upon application by the owner to the commissioner of natural resources and upon payment of the fee. Replacement registration decals may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Licenses, or any conservation officer.

**Subp. 7. Reporting of abandoned, stolen, or destroyed ATV.** An abandoned, stolen, or destroyed ATV must be reported to the commissioner within 15 days by completing the reverse side of the registration certificate. A fee is not charged for the reporting.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*

**6102.0020 DEALER'S AND MANUFACTURER'S REGISTRATION.**

**Subpart 1. Demonstration or testing purposes.** Application for registration of all ATVs owned by a dealer and operated for demonstration or testing purposes within this state must be made on the prescribed form to the commissioner of natural resources. On payment of the fee required by law, three registration plates will be issued, together with a registration certificate which must be conspicuously displayed in the dealer's place of business.

**Subp. 2. Research, experimentation, or demonstration purposes.** Application for registration of all ATVs owned by a manufacturer and operated for research testing, exper-

imentation, or demonstration purposes must be made to the commissioner on the prescribed form. On payment of the fee, 12 registration plates will be issued, together with a registration certificate which must be conspicuously displayed in the manufacturer's place of business.

Subp. 3. **Display required.** A dealer or manufacturer may not operate or permit to be operated within this state any ATV owned by or under the control of a dealer or manufacturer unless a valid registration plate is clearly displayed on the ATV.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*

#### 6102.0030 SPECIAL PERMITS.

On written application by the responsible event sponsor to the commissioner of natural resources, special operating permits for limited periods of time may be issued to operators of ATVs from states that do not require registration when the ATVs are to be used in connection with an organized group outing, trail ride, race, rally, or other promotional event. The permit must be in a form prescribed by the commissioner, must be conspicuously displayed on the ATV, is valid only when the ATV is used in connection with the event for which the permit was issued, and is valid for the period of time shown on the permit.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*

#### 6102.0040 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.

Subpart 1. **All-terrain vehicles.** An ATV may not be operated on public lands, waters, and trails or on public streets and highways which are open to ATV use unless equipped with:

A. When operating during hours of darkness, an ATV must have at least one headlamp having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead under normal atmospheric conditions. The headlamp must be so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of oncoming vehicle operators.

B. When operating during hours of darkness, an ATV must have at least one red tail lamp, having a minimum candlepower of sufficient intensity to exhibit a red light, plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear under normal atmospheric conditions.

C. Brakes adequate to control the movement of, and to stop, and to hold the ATV under normal operating conditions.

D. A throttle so designed that when pressure used to advance the throttle is removed, the engine will immediately and automatically return to idle.

Subp. 2. **Sled, trailer, or device towed by ATV.** A sled, trailer, or other device being towed by an ATV during the hours of darkness under normal atmospheric conditions must be equipped as follows:

A. Unobstructed and visible reflective material of at least 16 square inches must be mounted on each side and at the rear of the sled, trailer, or device.

B. The reflection material required must have at least the minimum intensity values prescribed in Table II of the Federal Specifications L-S-300C, dated March 29, 1979, or be in accordance with Reflex Reflectors, Society of Automotive Engineers, SAE J594F, which are incorporated by reference, are not subject to frequent change, and are universally available. The manufacturer's trade name, or other decorative material, if meeting minimum reflectorization standards, may be included in computing the required 16 square inch area.

Subp. 3. **Maker's permanent identification number.** All ATVs made after January 1, 1995, and sold in this state must bear the maker's permanent identification number so placed and of such size as follows:

A. shall be permanently stamped into the steering head or on a frame member on the forward half of the vehicle;

B. have a height of numerals and letters of not less than four millimeters; and

C. be readable without removing any part of the vehicle.

Each ATV so manufactured must bear an individual number that must not be duplicated by that maker at any time within the succeeding ten years.

Subp. 4. **Mufflers.** A person may not operate an ATV unless it is equipped with a functioning spark arrestor type muffler as required by Minnesota Statutes and/or equipped with a United States Forest Service approved spark arrestor or combination thereof.

An ATV manufactured after January 1, 1994, except an ATV designed for competition purposes only, may not be sold, offered for sale, or operated in this state unless it is so equipped that overall noise emission does not exceed a sound level limitation of not more than 99 decibels on the A scale from a distance of 20 inches using test procedures and instrumentation as set forth in the Society of Automotive Engineers' Standard, SAE J1287, June 1988.

No noise suppressing system or muffler shall be equipped with a cutout, bypass, or similar device and no person shall modify or alter that system or its operation in any manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the ATV's motor to exceed the noise limits established in this subpart, except for organized events as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 84.928.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*

### 6102.0050 PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS, TRAILS, AND ROADWAYS.

Subpart 1. **Traffic control.** To control traffic on public lands, waters, and trails, all ATV operators must comply with items A to G.

A. Trail signs must be obeyed.

B. One-way trails must be traveled in the direction indicated.

C. When on a trail treadway, an operator must stay on the right half of the treadway when meeting or being passed by another trail user.

D. When passing another trail user traveling in the same direction, an operator must pass on the left half of the treadway and may pass only when the left half is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the safety of any trail user.

E. Any trail user who is about to enter onto or cross a trail treadway shall yield the right-of-way to any trail user already on the treadway to be entered or crossed.

F. When two trail users are about to enter an otherwise unmarked treadway intersection from different treadways at approximately the same time, or are approaching an otherwise unmarked merger of two treadways from any two directions at approximately the same time, the trail user on the right shall have the right-of-way.

G. Trail users shall yield to nonmotorized trail users and shall shut off their machines when meeting a horse until the horse has passed or until waved on by the rider or driver of the horse.

Subp. 2. **Operation of ATVs.** It is unlawful on any public lands, waters, trails, or public road rights-of-way open for ATV use for any person to drive or operate an ATV in any of the following ways:

A. At a speed greater than is reasonable or proper under all of the surrounding circumstances or greater than the posted speed limit. When necessary, the commissioner of natural resources may establish and post at reasonable intervals a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for the operation of ATVs along a specific portion of the trail or in areas under the commissioner's jurisdiction. The speed limit is effective when signs are erected and any operation of an ATV within the posted portion of the trail or area in excess of the posted speed limit is unlawful.

The speed limit may be waived in writing by the commissioner of natural resources for an organized race or similar competitive event held upon lands, waters, or trails.

B. Without a lighted headlamp and tail lamp when operated at night or during reduced visibility.

Subp. 3. **Regulations by governmental subdivisions.** Governmental subdivisions may, by ordinance, regulate the operation of ATVs on public waters within their boundaries, provided the ordinance is approved by the commissioner of natural resources and is not inconsistent with law or rule. An ordinance affecting ATV use on public waters is not valid with

respect to such action unless first submitted to the commissioner of natural resources and approved in writing.

Subp. 4. **Official use.** This part does not apply to any person lawfully engaged in the performance of the development, maintenance, and operation of such trails, including but not limited to the commissioner of natural resources, agents or employees of the commissioner, persons operating under contract with the Department of Natural Resources, and law enforcement officers.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*

#### **6102.0060 UNIFORM SIGNS.**

Subpart 1. **General.** The signs in this part are designated as necessary and desirable to control, direct, or regulate the operation and use of ATVs for the purposes indicated.

Subp. 2. **Informational and directional signs.** Informational and directional signs are used to indicate intersections or changes in trail direction through use of a nine-inch by 12-inch diamond-shaped sign with an appropriate decal or comparable screen insignia as specified in the Department of Natural Resources Sign Manual.

Subp. 3. **Reassuring sign.** A five-inch by seven-inch diamond-shaped reassurance blazer shall be placed along the trail often enough to reassure that the user is on the trail.

Subp. 4. **Sign color.** The signs in subparts 2 and 3 shall be yellow-lime in color.

Subp. 5. **Insignias.** Decals, if used, shall have a background of yellow-lime with the insignia screened in black. Black insignias may be screened directly onto signs.

Subp. 6. **ATV signs.** ATV signs 12 inches by 12 inches are used to indicate trails and areas where ATV use is permitted. Background color shall be yellow-lime. The ATV symbol shall be black.

Subp. 7. **ATV prohibited sign.** ATV signs 12 inches by 12 inches are used to indicate trails and areas where ATV use is prohibited. Background color shall be yellow-lime. The ATV symbol shall be black, prohibiting slash solid black.

Subp. 8. **Other ATV signs.** Other signs will be developed as needed consistent with the Department of Natural Resources Sign Manual for ATV trails and areas.

Subp. 9. **Signing.** A sign intended for any of the purposes in subpart 8 may not be erected by the state or its governmental subdivisions unless the sign is in the form, shape, dimensions, and colors prescribed in subpart 8.

When specified, yellow-lime signs shall be PMS 396 or equivalent; PMS 396, dated 1977, published by Pantone, Inc., is incorporated by reference, is not subject to frequent change, and is universally available. Detailed plans and specifications of the signs are available upon written request to the commissioner of natural resources.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 84.924*

**History:** *18 SR 1145*