



Standard Procedure – Snowmobile

Purpose

This standard shall outline requirements for safe snowmobile operation.

Snowmobile Operating Permit

Permission to operate a snowmobile shall be granted on the successful completion of a Snowmobile Safety Course.

Basic Equipment

Basic equipment required for safe operation of a snowmobile shall include:

- Insulated outerwear consisting of insulated pants and jacket; and
- Gloves/mitts for hand protection; and
- Other clothing capable of covering exposed areas of the neck and face (in cold weather conditions)

All snowmobiles shall be equipped with the following:

- Spare drive belt;
- Spare spark plugs (2);
- Spare 1-liter bottle of injection oil (for snowmobiles with two stroke engines);
- Manufacturers tool kit;
- Safety throw line;
- Snowshoes;
- Axe;
- First Aid kit;
- Fire extinguisher; 5/10lb; and
- Spill Kit;

Personal Protective Equipment

PPE required for safe snowmobile operation shall consist of the following:

- CSA approved helmet; DOT;
- Safety glasses or goggles (when wearing a helmet with no face shield);
- Winter Safety boots;
- Warm pants/jacket – class 2 level 2 Reflective Vest;
- Gloves/mitts;
- PFD when travel over ice surfaces cannot be avoided;
- Set of picks must be worn around the neck when operating snowmobile;

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Snowmobile Operating Procedure

Considerations for safe operations of snowmobiles shall be addressed under the following:

- Pre-operation requirements;
- Operational requirements; and
- Post operational requirements;

Pre-operational Requirements

A circle inspection shall be conducted prior to starting the snowmobile and shall include:

1. Ensure snowmobile is equipped with items listed under the basic equipment above;
2. Check throttle and brake lever response, ensure they return to neutral position;
3. Check to ensure track and skis are free and not frozen in place. If frozen, mount the snowmobile and gently rock the machine, this should free frozen skis and track;
4. Check for windshield cracks and ensure protective edging is in place;
5. Check to ensure kill switch and tether switch are functioning properly;
6. Check fluid levels (oil, gasoline, engine coolant);
7. Always check to ensure that hood latches are securely fastened;
8. Ensure proper clothing sufficient to protect against weather conditions;
9. Supervisor shall notify their workers of the work to be performed and expected time of return;

Operational Requirements

Operational requirements for safe operation of a snowmobile are presented below:

- Ensure that brake light and headlight are operating properly;
- Use of snowmobiles shall be confined to established routes where possible;
- Passengers shall only be transported on snowmobiles designed for that purpose;
- Snowmobiles shall be operated at speeds no greater than 50 km/hr. on established trails; or at reduced speeds when trail conditions are poor;
- Scan/Search terrain and environment for potential hazards or specific problems. Predict what may happen and consider the consequences. Decide what to do based on riding abilities and capabilities of the snowmobile and execute the plan;
- Snowmobiles shall not be operated on untested ice surfaces. Avoid ice crossings when possible;
- Untested ice surfaces shall be tested in the presence of at least two operators;
- Sleds or toboggans used to transport materials shall be attached to the snowmobile receiver hitch using an approved locking pin;
- Cargo shall be secured and not exceed the manufacturer maximum weight capacity;
- Snowmobiles required to be transported by vehicle shall be loaded with ramps designed for that purpose. Snow drift banks higher than the height of the tailgate of the truck may also be used or towed on an approved trailer;

Post Operational Requirements

- Snowmobiles shall never be parked in an area frequented by vehicle traffic;
- Always check to ensure that hood latches are securely fastened, for transport;
- Snowmobiles transported by pick-up truck shall be secured with adequate rope or straps;
- If a snowmobile has received damage, the key and tether switch shall be removed and the necessary lockout procedure followed;

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