



POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO ON-ROAD OPERATION OF ATVs

The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) is the national not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the United States. SVIA's major goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs.

Americans are enjoying ATVs in rapidly increasing numbers and using them responsibly for both work and play. Tens of millions of ATV users ride their ATVs in a safe and appropriate manner every day. They are tremendously useful products and have become an essential tool for farmers, law enforcement officials, military and others. Unfortunately, with this increased popularity has come an increase in estimated ATV-related accidents.

The majority of accidents and injuries are caused by misuse of the ATV. 92% of ATV-related fatalities involve behaviors that the Industry warns against in its rider education programs, in all literature and on vehicle labels. These behaviors include children riding adult-sized ATVs, operating on paved roads, operating without a helmet or other protective safety gear, carrying passengers on single-rider ATVs and operating under the influence of alcohol.

ATVs are designed, manufactured and sold for off-road use only. On-road vehicles must be manufactured and certified to comply with U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). These safety standards consist of extensive and detailed compliance requirements. Since ATVs are not intended to be used on-road, they are not designed, equipped or tested to meet such standards.

Permitting street use of ATVs, including modified ATVs, would be in conflict with manufacturers' intentions for their proper use, and would be contrary to federal safety requirements.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) statistics show that between 1997 and 2002, 40% of ATV fatalities involved operation on paved roads, despite the fact that vehicle labels and owner's manuals clearly warn against such use.

Riding on public roads introduces the possibility of the ATV colliding with a car or truck, an obviously dangerous situation. Another CPSC study of 3,200 ATV-related deaths that occurred between 1985 and 1996 found that the most frequently reported hazard pattern (56% of all ATV incidents) involved collisions and 35% of these involved collisions with motorized vehicles.

SVIA emphasizes that ATVs are not designed, manufactured, or in any way intended for use on public streets, roads or highways and urges that on-highway use of ATVs be prohibited and that law enforcement efforts be strengthened to eliminate this dangerous practice.