



Competency & Mobile Equipment – What Operators and Employers Should Know

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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Information

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****For the purpose of this alert mobile equipment refers to any wheeled or tracked vehicle which is engine or motor powered, together with attached or towed equipment, but not a vehicle operated on fixed rails or tracks. Example: All Terrain Vehicles (ATV), Utility Vehicles (UTV), Snowmobiles, Argo's etc****

Whether mobile equipment is used in an industrial (workplace) environment or for recreational purposes, safe-riding practices must be followed. According to the Alberta Safety Council (ASC) there are four factors that must be taken into account when operating an ATV; these are:

- Personal ability (competency) of the rider;
- Planned task or job;
- Size and capability of the ATV ;
- And the environmental and terrain conditions under which the operation will take place

Currently an Industry Standard exists for anyone operating an ATV to possess a valid ticket from either the Canada Safety Council (CSC) or the ASC indicating the operator is competent and knowledgeable to use such mobile equipment. On top of possessing this ticket, operators must also use the equipment safely, maintain full control of the equipment, and comply with the all the laws governing the operation of the mobile equipment.

Although a current Industry Standard regarding the operation of other mobile equipment such as snowmobiles, UTV's and Argo's does not yet exist; it is important to apply the same standards one would while operating an ATV.

The operation of all mobile equipment should be conducted by competent individuals - but what exactly is a "competent" individual? In Alberta "competent" is defined as being adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision. In BC, demonstrating competency means the operator has received adequate instruction in the safe use of the equipment, has demonstrated to a qualified supervisor or instructor competency in operating the equipment and is familiar with the operating instructions for the equipment.

Ensuring the competency of all who operate mobile equipment is not just the responsibility of the operator/worker; supervisors must not knowingly operate or permit a non-competent worker to operate mobile equipment, as this could lead to, or create an undue hazard to the health or safety of any person on the job site.

Knowing all you can about the safe operating procedures of any mobile equipment is the best preparation for safe and enjoyable riding. Being familiar with and practicing the applicable Provincial Regulations will ensure your workers, supervisors and companies are achieving compliance.

Future Note: The CAGC, in conjunction with other interested parties, will be working towards the creation of an Oil and Gas Training Standard that will encompass mobile equipment used during field operations.



Example of a UTV



Example of an ATV



Example of an Argo

References:

Alberta Safety Council:

<http://www.safetycouncil.ab.ca/>

Canada Safety Council

<http://www.safety-council.org/training/ATV/atvcode.htm>

Worksafe BC

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part16.asp>

Alberta OHS

http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-LEG_ohsc_2006.pdf