

Farm Vehicles

Farm SOP for using side-by-side vehicles

Side by Side (SXS) vehicles are only to be used by operators approved by management for approved tasks and approved locations.

No vehicle is to be operated if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

DO NOT use this equipment unless you have been instructed and competent in its safe use and operation.

SXS on this farm will be maintained as per manufacturer's recommendations.

Always do the pre-operational checks and report any faults or damage immediately to:

Personal protective equipment

- ✓ Where manufacturers recommend, wear an approved Australian Standard helmet (that is AS 1698). Chin strap to always be done up.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing relevant to cab type and conditions including eye protection (clear and UV options are provided), gloves, long trousers and boots. (Additional PPE will be required when spraying).
- ✓ Hearing protection is required if noise rating exceeds 85 decibels.
- ✓ Wear high visibility clothing if working remotely, or near/on a road.

Pre-operational safety checks

- ✓ Follow manufacturer's recommendations and warning labels. The Operator's manual is located:

- ✓ Locate and ensure you are familiar with all controls and warnings.
- ✓ Use the **TCLOC*** approach to doing regular checks:
 - ✓ **T** = Tyres and wheels
Tyre pressure: on SXS is low pressure. (Refer to manual recommendations). Check with low pressure gauge available from manufacturer and ensure tyre pressure is maintained. Check tyre and rims for damage. Ensure tread depth suitable for operating conditions.
 - ✓ **C** = Controls
Brakes: manure is hard on brakes, check their function regularly. L = Lights and electrical.
 - ✓ **O** = Oils and fluids.
C = Chassis, suspension and ROPS. (ROPS is not to be drilled or welded)
- ✓ Check seat belt condition.
- ✓ Always tell someone where you are going and estimated time of return.
- ✓ Have appropriate communication (i.e. mobile phone) available.

Operational safety

- ✓ Do not carry passengers in the tray at any time. (Carry only recommended number of passengers).
- ✓ Use seat belts where fitted.
- ✓ Fit doors or door nets where provided.
- ✓ Ensure loads are secure and do not exceed manufacturer's recommended limits, including trailers and spray tanks. Avoid high loads.
- ✓ Observe speed limits and no-go areas.
- ✓ Only SXS that are registered** are to be used to cross public gazetted roads.
- ✓ When on road have lights on and rotating beacon activated (where fitted).
- ✓ Travel on roadside rather than on road bitumen where practical.
- ✓ Use turning indicators (where fitted as part of registration**).
- ✓ In paddocks operate at a speed slow enough to keep control and to observe any hazards. eg; holes, logs and rocks.
- ✓ Travel up/down slopes rather than across. Ascending or descending slopes or riding over uneven ground, engage 4WD and low gear.
- ✓ Avoid carrying loads and pulling trailers on slopes.
- ✓ When mustering or spraying reduce speed and choose the clearest path possible.
- ✓ Ensure no person or animal is endangered when operating equipment.
- ✓ Allow the SXS to cool before refuelling
- ✓ Advise your supervisor of any mechanical problems or damage including tyre condition. Do not ride a SXS that's not in good repair.
- ✓ Only load SXS on to trailer or vehicle using approved rated ramps. Empty any spray tanks before loading.

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Ending operations

- ✓ Park on even ground.
- ✓ Lock the parking brake.
- ✓ Stop the engine and remove the keys.

After use

- ✓ Regularly clean down to remove manure and mud, debris and chemical residue. Check build-up of grass on air filters and radiators.
- ✓ Check for damage and report if found.
- ✓ Tag out/disable defective SXS to prevent accidental operation.

Potential hazards and injuries

- ⓘ Rollover, sideways and backward tipping.
- ⓘ Collision.
- ⓘ Head and spinal injuries.
- ⓘ Noise.

Don't

- ✗ Do not use faulty equipment. Report suspect machinery immediately.
- ✗ Do not drive in excessively poor conditions (weather, visibility or surface).
- ✗ Never carry passengers in the tray.
- ✗ No tricks or skylarking allowed

Note, when setting up this template:

* **Pre-operation checks of individual SXS.** Employers should check pre-operation checks against manual.

****On road use of SXS.** Employers must check the registration and operator licence requirements in their state.