

New Standards for Youth-Model ATVs

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), all-terrain vehicle (ATV) manufacturers, dealerships, consumer groups, safety advocates, and parents all agree that the key to improving ATV safety for riders under the age of 16 is to keep them off of ATVs designed for adults.

In July 2007, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the revised standard for ATVs, developed by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA). This latest revision includes expanded youth-model categories and a new "Transition" category, to provide a wider array of ATV sizes and capabilities teamed with important safety features.

- **Age-Appropriate:** ATV categories have been redefined to allow better matching of the ATVs to the size, capabilities and expectations of young riders and their parents.
- **Parental Control:** tamper-resistant speed limiters, ignition keys and tether cords (for some models) help parents supervise their child's use of the ATV and tailor the performance of the ATV to his or her abilities.
- **Training :** SVIA member companies offer free hands-on rider training to purchasers of new ATVs and their eligible family members.

Main innovations in new youth-model ATVs

Previously, youth-model ATVs were produced in just two categories, Y-6 and Y-12, and were tied to specific engine displacements up to 90cc. These classifications and engine size limitations worked for some younger riders, but were less attractive to older and bigger riders, resulting in some 14- and 15- year olds choosing to ride adult-model ATVs.

The new standard provides more flexibility: Youth-model ATVs are designed for varying ages, with differing speed limitations and parental controls for the different categories.

- Y-6+** designed for riders aged 6 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of **10 mph**, can be adjusted by parent up to maximum speed **15 mph**
- Y-10+** designed for riders aged 10 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of **15 mph**, can be adjusted by parent up to maximum speed **30 mph**
- Y-12+** designed for riders aged 12 and older with adult supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of **15 mph**, can be adjusted by parent up to maximum speed **30 mph**
- T** designed for riders aged 14 and older with adult supervision, and riders 16 and older without supervision; comes from the factory set with a maximum speed of **20 mph**, can be adjusted by parent to maximum speed of **30 mph** or **38 mph**

All Y- and T-category ATVs should comply with ANSI standards and have safety features just like adult-category ATVs, including (partial list):

- Ignition key
- Front and rear brakes
- Standardized throttle, clutch and gearshift control layout
- Floorboards/footrests and fenders
- Owner's manual, warning labels and hang tags

