



INFORMATION LEAFLET 006-0917

ATV headgear

September 2017

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FISA has received an enquiry about ATV headgear and have received the following back from HSE:

From HSE's perspective, for side-by-side vehicles used at work, whether or not a helmet should be worn should be determined through the use of risk assessment. However, in completing the risk assessment, there is an additional factor that should form part of the assessment that is often overlooked, and that is the use of the seat restraint.

Side-by-side vehicles are fitted with roll over protective structures (ROPS). In the event of an overturn, the ROPS protects the operator from serious injury provided they stay within the area protected by the ROPS. To ensure that this happens, side-by-side vehicles are fitted with seat restraints to ensure that the operator remains within the protective structure. Seat restraints should be worn at all times, although this is often overlooked. If a seat restraint is not worn, in the event of an overturn the operator will be ejected from the vehicle and may be injured through contact with the ground, or by the parts of the vehicle itself.

With regard to the risk assessment, this will also need to take into account the terrain over which the vehicle is operating and the nature of the ROPS. Some side-by-sides are fitted with a structure that has many the characteristics of a cab, whereas others are little more than frames.

If a seat restraint is worn and the vehicle is likely to be used on relatively even and flat terrain, then it is unlikely that a helmet will be required to protect the operator from injury.

However, if the vehicle is to be used over very uneven terrain or terrain which includes objects that could enter the ROPS area and strike the operator's head in the event of an overturn, such as rocks or stumps, then head protection may be required. In addition, if the terrain is very uneven and there is the potential for the operator's head to strike the ROPS frame and the frame provides little protection against injury, then head protection is likely to be required, such as in this example:

