



POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO ON-HIGHWAY OPERATION OF ROVs

The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA also serves as the primary resource for information on ROVs. An ROV – sometimes referred to as a side-by-side or UTV – is a motorized off-highway vehicle designed to travel on four or more tires, intended by the manufacturer for use by one or more persons and having the following characteristics: a steering wheel for steering control; a Roll Over Protective Structure complying with ANSI/ROHVA-1, an Occupant Retention System complying with ANSI/ROHVA-1; non-straddle seating; maximum speed capability greater than 30 mph; less than 80 inches in overall width, exclusive of accessories; and engine displacement of less than 1,000cc. Current models are designed with seats for a driver and one or more passengers.

ROVs are designed, manufactured and sold for off-highway use only. On-highway 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 ROVs are not intended to be used on-highway, they are not designed, equipped or tested to meet such standards. Permitting street use of ROVs, including modified vehicles, would be in conflict with manufacturers' proper use intent and contrary to federal safety requirements.

Riding on public roads introduces the possibility of the ROV colliding with a car or truck, an obviously dangerous situation. ROHVA emphasizes that ROVs are not designed, manufactured, or in any way intended for use on public streets, roads or highways and urges that on-highway use of ROVs be prohibited and law enforcement efforts be strengthened to eliminate this practice.

It should be noted that for purposes of prohibiting ROV use on public roads, ROHVA does not consider such public thoroughfares as logging roads, woodland trails or other unimproved ways to be public streets, roads, or highways and the prohibition on allowing on-road use of ROVs should not be meant to apply to a road that is part of a designated trail system permitting ROV operation.