



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

**2013 Wisconsin Act 67
[2013 Senate Bill 310]**

Miscellaneous Laws Affecting All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility-Terrain Vehicles

Wisconsin law provides that a device qualifies as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or a utility-terrain vehicle (UTV) if it meets certain specifications. Under prior law, among those specifications was a requirement that the device have low-pressure tires. Specific to certain UTVs, a device qualified as a UTV if it weighed more than 900 pounds, had seats not to be straddled and designed for at least two occupants, and met certain other requirements.

Wisconsin law also provides that a person may operate an ATV or UTV on the roadway¹ portion of any highway only in certain situations. One such situation is to cross a bridge, culvert, or railroad right-of-way, if it is done in the most direct manner practicable and no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing. The crossing of a bridge, culvert, or railroad right-of-way is not authorized if the roadway is officially closed to ATV or UTV traffic.

2013 WISCONSIN ACT 67

2013 Wisconsin Act 67 changes the tire requirements for ATVs and UTVs to allow for non-pneumatic tires. “Non-pneumatic tire” is defined as a tire that is designed by the manufacturer to meet all of the following requirements:

- Has a minimum width of six inches.
- Has a reinforced structure.
- Is not supported by air pressure.

¹ “Roadway” means that portion of a highway between the regularly established curb lines or that portion which is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, excluding the berm or shoulder. In a divided highway, the term “roadway” refers to each roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively. [s. 340.01 (54), Stats.]

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

The Act also provides the following:

- In order to qualify as an ATV or UTV, the vehicle must have been commercially designed and manufactured.
- The weight of an ATV or UTV is determined by measuring the vehicle weight without fluids.
- Adds a requirement that the operator of an ATV or UTV must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles when crossing a bridge, culvert, or railroad right-of-way.

In addition, specific to UTVs, the Act does the following:

- Specifies that a device does not qualify as a UTV if it weighs more than 2,000 pounds.
- Eliminates the requirement that certain UTVs have seats not designed to be straddled and designed for at least two occupants.
- Prohibits operation of a UTV that has a seat that is not original to the UTV as manufactured.

Effective date: December 14, 2013.

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