

# SOP 3.03 – Side by Side Vehicles (SSVs)

Section 3 – Lifesaving Vehicles

Page 1 of 3

Effective Date – 10 December 2020

Review Date – 10 December 2022

Electronically Controlled Document

## Purpose

To describe the procedure to be followed by applicable agency personnel involved in the operation of Side by Side vehicles (SSVs).

## Scope

This standard operating procedure (SOP) applies to all Life Saving Victoria (LSV) personnel (i.e., paid staff, officers and volunteer members) where engaged in the operation of SSVs.

## Policy Statement

LSV requires all Side by Side Vehicle (SSV) operators to adhere to the established policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to SSV operations.

## Responsibilities

Lifesaving volunteers, lifeguards, local operations officers, duty officers (among others).

## Definitions

Name	Definition
LSV	Life Saving Victoria
SSV	Side by Side Vehicle
AED	Automated External Defibrillator

## Procedure

SSVs enable suitably qualified lifesaving personnel to be more mobile and capable of quickly responding to emergencies both inside and outside their patrolled area.

The use of flashing lights should be used at all times when on-beach



patrolling/emergencies and when using on public roads. Lifesaving vehicles can legally only use amber flashing lights. A siren must not be fitted to the vehicle by law, and installation even without use is illegal.

### Operational Requirements

- All ATVs are to meet SLSA gear and equipment specifications in the SLSA Gear and Equipment List.
- All Australia Road Rules and vehicle regulations (including registration, speed, seat-belts, red-lights and parking) must be observed. Speed should be minimised at every opportunity. ATVs are not exempt from any fines and infringements, including operations during emergencies.
- Local government and/or state regulations in relation to speed must be adhered to at all times.
- The SSV must not exceed 20km/h under normal operating conditions. The speed limit for heavily populated areas and between the red and yellow flags is 5km/h.
- It is the operator's responsibility to evaluate the environment to determine a safe and appropriate speed within these limits.
- Flashing amber lights and headlights must be turned on whenever in motion.

### Registration

All ATVs must be registered with VicRoads annually using the Special Work Vehicle Registration form known as a 'machinery pack'. For information on this please contact your volunteer support officer.

### Equipment

All SSVs must carry the following lifesaving equipment and hold the following safety items:

- rescue board
- rescue tube + fins
- approved fitted or portable (Inc. waterproof bag and harness) LSV communication device
- loud hailer
- first aid, resuscitation kits and Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

All SSVs must have the following fitted:

- reverse beepers (shall activate whenever in reverse)
- flashing light (shall activate whenever ATV is running)
- side doors/barriers
- towbar

Any modifications, including roll bars, carry racks and storage containers, must adhere to manufacturer's guidelines and be carried out in consultation with the manufacturer or dealer and LSV.

### Vehicle Branding

Branding for all lifesaving vehicles must comply with the SLSA Equipment and Uniform Branding Guidelines. These guidelines can be obtained at the [SLSA Members Portal](#).

## Safety

All SSV drivers must be at least 18 years of age and

- hold a current and proficient driver's licence (provisional or open),
- be a financial LSV member, and
- be inducted in the operation of the specific approved SSV by a nominated club/service officer.

<b>Reference</b>	
Related Documents	SLSA Policy 1.06 - Gear & Equipment
	VicRoads – Conditional Registration Approval Document N3621107
Legislation	

<b>Review</b>	
Date of Issue	10 December 2020
Date Effective	26 December 2020
Date to be Reviewed	1 July 2022
Date to Cease	10 December 2022

<b>Authority</b>
The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.

