



MOTORCYCLE & ATV OPERATOR SAFETY PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Statutes: Chapter 551A, Texas Transportation Code; Chapter 662, Texas Transportation Code

Rules: Title 16 TAC Chapter 98 and Title 16 TAC Chapter 99

Practice Act? Yes

Title Act? No

Audits? Yes

Inspections? No

Number of licensees: 394 (FY 25):

- 331 motorcycle instructors
- 58 motorcycle schools
- 5 ATV instructors

Webpage: www.tdlr.texas.gov/mot

Overview:

The Texas Legislature transferred the Motorcycle and ATV Operator Safety program from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) on Sept. 1, 2020.

The Motorcycle and ATV Operator Safety program consists of two licensing programs:

- Motorcycle operator training and safety, which licenses schools and instructors who teach students how to safely operate motorcycles, and instructor training providers who teach the instructors.
- Off highway vehicle operator education and certificate that approves instructors who teach basic safety skills for operating all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and other off highway vehicles.

Program History

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation started in 1973 at Texas A&M University. Members of the Texas motorcycling community helped the foundation in creating a motorcycle safety curriculum and instructional materials to use when training beginner motorcyclists. Soon after that, volunteer instructors began conducting training at several locations across the state.

In 1983, DPS created the Motorcycle Operator Training Section and took responsibility for existing training locations.

In 1989, the section took on the responsibility of coordinating an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) program and was renamed the Motorcycle Safety Bureau. That year, DPS began contracting with outside entities to provide both the motorcycle and ATV trainings. The bureau was renamed the Motorcycle/ATV Safety Unit in 1998.

Motorcycle Operator Training and Safety

Motorcycle operators in Texas are required to have a motorcycle driver license or endorsement. To obtain a license or an endorsement, an applicant must show proof that they successfully completed a TDLR-approved motorcycle operator training course. The course must be conducted by a licensed motorcycle school and must be taught by a licensed instructor. To obtain an instructor license, an individual must complete a TDLR-approved instructor training course conducted by a licensed instructor training provider.

License and fee requirements:

- Motorcycle Instructor license:
 - 18 years of age
 - Completion of an instructor training course
 - Possession of a motorcycle license for at least 2 years
 - Pass a fingerprint-based national criminal history background check
 - A driving record that meets these requirements:
 - Must not have been convicted during the preceding three years of:
 - three or more moving violations, including violations that resulted in an accident; or
 - two or more moving violations, that resulted in an accident;
 - Must not have been convicted during the preceding seven years of DWI or a related offense
 - A high school diploma or GED certificate
 - A license fee of \$50
- Instructor training provider:
 - Hold a motorcycle instructor license
 - Hold certification to conduct a TDLR-approved instructor training course
 - A license fee of \$50
- Motorcycle School license:
 - Each controlling person must pass a criminal history background check
 - A \$2 million liability insurance policy covering the school
 - A training site that meets department requirements
 - Disclosure of courses, instructors, and motorcycles provided to students
 - A license fee of \$100.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE OPERATOR EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION ("the ATV Program")

"Off-highway vehicle" is a term that includes all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles, sand rails, and utility vehicles.

A person operating an off-highway vehicle on a beach or on public land designated for such use by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department must hold a safety certificate indicating completion of a safety training course. The course must be conducted by an approved program sponsor and taught by an approved instructor.

License requirements

ATV Instructor approval

- Completion of an instructor preparation course
- Must have an instructor license agreement with a program sponsor

ATV Program Sponsor requirements

- Must be a nonprofit safety organization, nonprofit educational organization, institution of higher education, or agency of local government
- Must have an agreement with the department to administer the program



Motorcycle Instructor	\$50
Motorcycle School	\$100

The Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board has nine members serving staggered six-year terms, which includes:

- three licensed instructors or representatives of licensed motorcycle schools;
- one Motorcycle Dealer Retail Industry Representative;
- one Law Enforcement Agency Representative;
- one licensed instructor training provider;
- one Texas A&M Transportation Institute Representative; and
- two public members who hold a valid Class M driver's license.