

## Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

<b>CONTENT CODE:</b> SLS031	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Helmet use in Lifeguard Operations	
<b>PUBLISH DATE:</b> 20/10/2018	<b>VERSION:</b> 2	<b>TOTAL PAGES:</b> 2

### Surf Life Saving New Zealand Regulation:

SLSNZ Volunteer Lifesaving Patrols shall operate on the following basis:-

#### **5.7 Rock Rescue Standard Incident Response Procedure**

All lifeguards must wear a Helmet that meets NZ Standard EN 1385 and is appropriately fitted,

- 5.7.1** During all rock rescues and rock rescue training.
- 5.7.2** Whenever a Lifeguard is intending on landing onto an exposed rocky structure from the water.
- 5.7.3** During all training performed amongst or between rocks when swimming where waves are breaking upon rocks or swell is surging between rocks.

**Note:** Lifeguards swimming adjacent to the outside of rocks and have no intending on land onto the rocks DO NOT need to wear helmets.

#### **5.8 Helmet use in Powered Craft.**

- 5.8.1 IRB** All operators and crewpersons and “competition patients” must each wear a Helmet that meets NZ Standard EN 1385 and is appropriately fitted when operating these craft for all lifesaving operations, training, training for competition, and competition events.
- 5.8.2** Each Club is to maintain enough helmets to allow crew access to correct fitting sizes and enough to allow for the operating of all the powered craft at any time. Helmets must be kept in good repair and appropriately stored when not in use.
- 5.8.3 RWC** All Drivers crewpersons and “training patients” must each wear a Helmet that meets NZ Standard EN 1385 and is appropriately fitted when operating these craft for, training, patrol Operations, Search and Rescue work and Event Guarding.

SLSNZ through its patrol inspection/audit process will ensure that this clause is being met.

#### **5.9 All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV Quad Bike and/or LUV Side-by-Side)**

Helmets are mandatory for quad bikes – both by SLSNZ and the NZ law. For side-by-side vehicles with seat belts they are not required by law, but SLSNZ recommends they are used anyway, and mandates their use if the manufacturer specifies it.

LTSA defines all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) as vehicles that are principally designed for off-road use, with three or more wheels, an engine capacity exceeding 50cc and a gross weight of less than 1000kg (which is the greater of the on-road weight with load and accessories OR the gross

laden weight set by the manufacturer). ATVs include most quad bikes, smaller 'side by sides' and amphibious vehicles.

Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 states that if an ATV is being used on a road and there are no seatbelts fitted (most side-by-sides have seatbelts and roll over protection), the rider or driver and passengers have to wear an approved helmet. The rule provides an exception to the requirement to wear a helmet for farmers if they're travelling slower than 30km/h, from one part of their farm to another or to an adjoining farm.

As such, this means that under the law, quad bikes (which don't have seat belts) require the operators to wear a helmet when used on a beach, but side-by-sides don't if seat belts are fitted (and presumably worn).