MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE

AA1234

EXPIRES SEPT. 30 2004

DECAL COLOR: changes by year of expiration.
SIZE: 3" x 6"

Snowmobilers Please:

SLOW DOWN
Speed is a contributing factor in nearly all fatal accidents.

DON'T DRINK
Alcohol impairs judgement and slows reaction time. Make it NONE for the trail.

Live to enjoy Michigan's winter wonderland.

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For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909- 7531. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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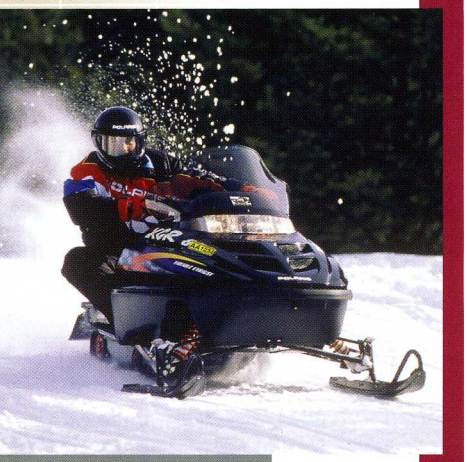
MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS



Legal definition of a snowmobile:
A snowmobile is any motor-driven vehicle designed for travel primarily on snow or ice using sled-type runners or skis, an endless belt tread or similar means to contact the surface upon which it is operated.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES · DNR · MICHIGAN

www.michigandnr.com

A Snowmobile may Operate on a Public Highway Under the Following Conditions:

- A snowmobile may be operated on the right-of-way of a public highway (except a limited-access highway) if it is operated at the extreme right of the open portion of the right-of-way and with the flow of traffic on the highway. Snowmobiles operated on a road right-of-way must travel in single file and shall not be operated abreast except when overtaking or passing another snowmobile.
- A snowmobile may be operated on the roadway or shoulder when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert if the snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before entering onto the roadway or shoulder and the operator yields the right-of-way to any approaching motor vehicle on the highway.
- A snowmobile may be operated across a public highway, other than a limited access highway, at right angles to the highway for the purpose of getting from one area to another when the operation can be done safely and another vehicle is not crossing the highway at the same time in the immediate area. An operator must bring his/her snowmobile to a complete stop before proceeding across the public highway and must yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic.
- Snowmobiles may be operated on a highway in a county road system, which is not normally snowplowed for vehicular traffic; and on the right-of-way or shoulder when no right-of-way exists on a snowplowed highway in a county road system, outside the corporate limits of a city or village, which is designated and marked for snowmobile use by the county road commission having jurisdiction.

A Person Shall Not Operate a Snowmobile:

- While under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- At a rate of speed greater than is reasonable for existing conditions.
- In a forest nursery, planting area or public lands posted or reasonably identifiable as an area of forest reproduction when growing stock may be damaged or any designated wild, wilderness or natural area in the state.
- On the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person, including a skater, not in or upon a snowmobile or within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter except at the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile or on an area which has been cleared for ice skating, unless the area is necessary for gaining access to the public water.
- Within 100 feet of a dwelling between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.
- Upon the land of another without consent of the owner or his agent, as required by the recreational trespass act.
- In an area open to public hunting during the November 15-30 firearm deer season from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- While transporting a bow unless it is unstrung or encased, or a firearm unless it is unloaded and securely encased.
- On or across a cemetery or burial ground, airport, public or private parking lot, railroad or a railroad right-of-way within 100 feet of a sledding, skiing or skating area.
- To chase, pursue, worry or kill any wild bird or animal.

Accident Reporting

- The law requires that the operator of a snowmobile involved in an accident resulting in injury to, or death of, any person, or property damage in an estimated amount of $100 or more, must immediately notify a law enforcement agency within the county in which the accident occurred.

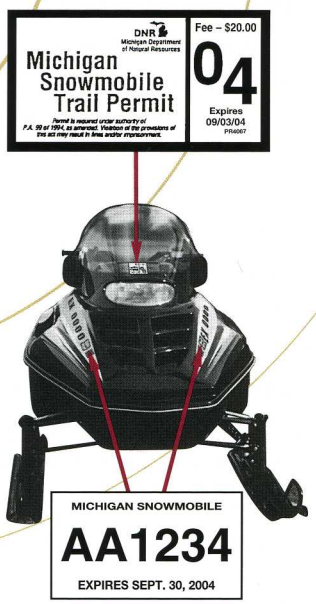
Driver License Information

Suspended Driver License

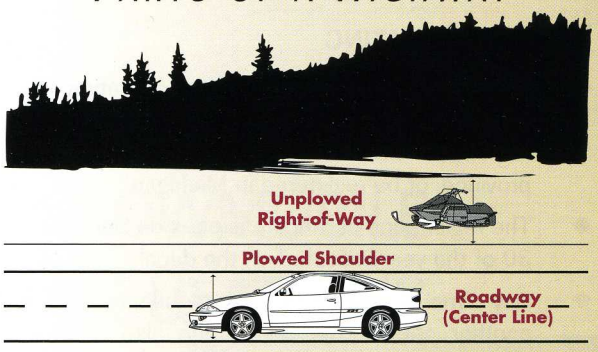
- You may not operate a snowmobile if your license to operate an automobile has been suspended by Michigan or your home state.

Points assessed to Your Driver Record

- A person convicted of manslaughter, negligent homicide or a felony resulting from snowmobile operation shall have six points assessed against their driver record. A person convicted of operating a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, or with an unlawful blood alcohol content shall have six points assessed against their driver record. A person who is convicted of operating a snowmobile while visibly impaired due to consumption of alcohol or a controlled substance shall have four points assessed against their driver record.



Parts of a Highway



Restrictions on Youthful Operations

A person under the age of 12:

- May not operate a snowmobile without direct supervision of the parent or guardian except on property owned or controlled by parent.
- May not cross a highway or street.

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age:

- May operate a snowmobile if they have a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession, or are under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older.
- May not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.

Safety Education and Training

Snowmobile safety education training is recommended for all snowmobile operators and is required for youth ages 12 to 17.

For information on snowmobile training, contact a DNR office in your area, call 517-373-1230, or go to the DNR Web site at www.michigandnr.com.

Registration and Trail Permits

- A snowmobile shall not be operated unless the owner first obtains a certificate of registration, registration decal and a trail permit sticker.

Before Operating

- If owned by a nonresident, before operation in Michigan, a snowmobile must display a valid registration from the operator's home state or province, or be registered in Michigan.
- The registration certificate expires on September 30 of the year indicated on the decal.
- Any time a registered snowmobile is sold to another person, the registration also must be transferred. Contact the Secretary of State for transfer information.
- State law requires that you affix the registration decals issued to the snowmobile to each side of the forward half of the cowl above the footwell. Beginning July 1, 1999, the registration decals display the registration number assigned to the snowmobile.
- A person who desires to operate a snowmobile in this state shall obtain a snowmobile trail permit sticker. The snowmobile trail permit sticker shall be valid for a period of one year, which begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year.
- The trail permit sticker shall be permanently affixed to the forward half of the snowmobile directly above or below the headlight.
- Snowmobile trail permits are available from snowmobile dealers, DNR offices and retail license agents, throughout Michigan.

Snowmobiles are exempt from registration and having a trail permit if they are: operated exclusively on lands owned or under the control of the owner; used entirely in a safety education program conducted by a certified snowmobile safety instructor; or exclusively operated in a special event of limited duration which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule under a permit from the governmental unit having proper jurisdiction. In addition, a snowmobile used solely for transportation on the frozen surface of public waters for ice fishing is exempt from the trail sticker requirement, but must still be registered.

Equipment Required

Brakes: Each snowmobile must have a braking system capable of:

a. Stopping the snowmobile in not more than 40 feet from an initial speed of 20 miles per hour while the snowmobile travels on packed snow carrying an operator who weighs 175 pounds or more.

b. Locking the snowmobile's traction belt or belts.

Noise: Each snowmobile manufactured after July 1, 1977, shall be equipped with a muffler which does not exceed 78 decibels of sound pressure at 50 feet as measured by the 1974 SAE J-192a.

Helmet: All persons operating or riding on a snowmobile must wear a Department of Transportation-approved crash helmet.

Lighting: All snowmobiles must display a lighted headlight and taillight at all times during operation.

Safe Riding Hints

- Always keep your machine in top mechanical condition.
- Always wear insulated boots and clothing including a helmet and gloves.
- Never ride alone. Always go with a friend on another snowmobile.
- Avoid, when possible, crossing frozen bodies of water.
- Never operate in a single file when crossing frozen bodies of water.
- Always be alert to avoid fences and low-strung wires.
- Never operate on a street or highway
- Always look for depressions in the snow.
- At an intersection, come to a complete stop, raise off the seat and look for traffic.
- Always check the weather before you go.
- Leave a travel plan.