



# Regulations relating to the use of motor vehicles on uncultivated land and in ice-covered watercourses

Regulation | Date: 15/05/1988 | [Ministry of Climate and Environment](#)

(<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kld/id668/>)

Care and consideration shall be shown during all motor traffic on uncultivated land and ice-covered watercourses to avoid damage or inconvenience to the natural environment and people.

*The translation is not official; it is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency, the Norwegian version shall prevail.*

*This translation is based on the norwegian version of 19th of June 2021. Later amendments are not translated.*

## § 1.

Motor vehicles may only be used on uncultivated land and ice-covered watercourses (as defined in article 2 of the Act) when such use is in accordance with these regulations.

Care and consideration shall be shown during all motor traffic on uncultivated land and ice-covered watercourses to avoid damage or inconvenience to the natural environment and people.

## § 2.

When the ground is not snow-covered, motor vehicles may be used off road as follows:

- a. for the purposes mentioned in article 4, first paragraph, of the Act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in watercourses,
- b. for transport of carcasses during the hunting season for moose and red deer, and for transport during the reindeer hunting season within the Hardangervidda wild reindeer area as defined by the Norwegian Environment Agency. Motor traffic inside the national park is only permitted in accordance with the conservation rules for the area; outside the national park it is only permitted for essential transport along tracks that have previously been prescribed by the Directorate for State Forests and Land for state-owned property and by the municipality or landowner for private property,
- c. for public control and inspection services,
- d. for essential transport in connection with official fish stock enhancement measures,
- e. for essential traffic in connection with the construction and operation of public roads and other installations.

When possible, motor traffic shall follow already existing tracks.

The county governor may restrict or prohibit motor traffic in particularly vulnerable areas, with the exception of traffic for the purposes mentioned in article 4, first paragraph, of the Act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in watercourses. The county governor may delegate this authority to the municipality.

The county governor may on application or on his own initiative make administrative decisions as to whether the purpose of motor traffic comes within the scope of the first paragraph above. The county governor's decision may be appealed to the Directorate for Nature Management.

## **§ 2a.**

Electric bicycles may be used in areas of uncultivated land. Electric bicycles refer to bicycles that are equipped with electric motors with a maximum nominal effect of at most 0,25kW which is gradually reduced in relation to increased speed and which ceases to operation at 25 km per hour or earlier if the cyclist ceases to peddle. The bicycle motor should only achieve a maximum speed of 6 km per hour without peddling.

The municipality may issue regulations to limit or prohibit use of electric bicycles in the entirety or parts of areas of uncultivated land.

### **§ 3.**

When the ground is snow-covered, motor vehicles may be used as follows:

- a. for purposes referred to in article 4, first paragraph, of the Act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in watercourses,
- b. for other purposes as referred to in article 2 of these regulations,
- c. for transport necessary for the operation of tourist facilities (facilities providing accommodation and meals, ski lifts, etc.) which are not situated beside roads for motor traffic that are cleared of snow in winter,
- d. for transport of material, equipment and labour for construction projects in accordance with building licences,
- e. for construction and preparation of ski trails and ski slopes for the general public and for competitions, when carried out by municipalities, voluntary rescue organizations, sports clubs, walking and skiing associations or enterprises in the tourist industry,
- f. for essential transport in connection with scientific investigations, including animal censuses and the like, commissioned by a research institution,
- g. for essential transport of firewood from one's own property to a permanent residence, and according to instructions from the forestry administration in Finnmark.
- h. for practical driver training in designated areas for required training for snowmobiles drivers. The designated areas are determined by the Country governor based on proposals from municipalities.

- i. for transport in connection with municipality organised emergency measures to reduce risk of road or rail collisions with elk og other deer.
- j. for necessary search for injured large wildlife other than in connection with ordinary hunting when carried out under auspices of the municipality.

The municipality may lay down provisions relating to motor traffic as referred to in litra b-g, including provisions relating to areas, routes, length of season, times of day, equipment, etc.

The provisions of article 2, third and fourth paragraph, apply correspondingly.

## **§ 4.**

(Repealed)

## **§ 4a.**

Snowmobiles may be used on snow covered ground on trails laid in accordance with the provision below, within the framework provided by the municipality's regulations, as per the second paragraph.

The municipality can adopt regulations about snowmobile trails for use by snowmobiles on snow cover. Trails shall be adopted in maps for that purpose. Trails shall be identified in the map of the municipality's plan for land use. The municipality shall issue regulations on the use of the trails, including speed and times for use. The regulations may determine user fees to cover costs for maintenance of the trails. In Finnmark and Nord-Troms counties (municipalities Kvænangen, Kåfjord, Lyngen, Nordreisa, Skjervøy and Storfjord), the municipality may permit driving out of the trails on frozen water to rest in the regulations. The municipality shall ensure marking of and information about the trails. Motor traffic in the snowmobile trails is not permitted from 5 May. In areas central for calving and migration of reindeer, the trails shall be closed in the Spring from 25 April. Article 9, excluding the first sentence of the first paragraph, apply correspondingly.

Public Administration Act, chapter VII applies for the municipal preparation and adoption of the trail map and provisions on snowmobile trails with the specific rules which follow from this paragraph. A proposal for snowmobile trails with provisions about use shall be put on public hearing as described in the Planning and Building Act, Articles 11 – 14. The municipal resolution shall address how opinions received from interested parties to the proposal and consequences of the snowmobile trails with regulatory provisions have been considered, and which significance these have been accorded, in addition to the evaluation of the municipal, cf. the fifth paragraph of this article. The decision by the municipality shall be notified in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Building Act, Article 12-12 fourth and fifth paragraph.

The trails shall not be in conservation areas, proposed conservation areas or national reindeer areas. The trails shall not contribute to significant damage or inconvenience for reindeer husbandry or require changes to the terrain.

When identifying trails, the municipality shall take particular account of noise and other negative impacts for outdoor recreation. The municipality shall also take account of biological diversity, housing and cottage areas, cultural heritage and safety for the snowmobile drivers and others.

Before sending the proposal for trails on a public hearing, the municipality shall investigate the impact the trails will have for outdoor recreation and biological diversity in the affected area, as well as map and evaluate areas for outdoor recreation where the trails are planned and consider the significance of these areas in relation to other areas for outdoor recreation within the municipality.

The municipality may not adopt decisions for snowmobile trails in private property before the owner given consent.

Decisions by the municipality on snowmobile trails can be appealed to the country governor. The Public Administration Act, chapter VI, applies, such that only landowners and right holders to properties can appeal a decision in the area affected by the trail; the Sami parliament and affected reindeer pasture districts; organisations whose interests are affected by the snowmobile trails, neighbouring municipalities and affected national and regional organs.