



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Ref: EDMS- 206285**

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### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USES OF VEHICLES IN THE COASTAL AREA**

The vehicle and coastal area are defined in the Control of Use of Vehicles in the Coastal Area Regulations (GN R496 of 27 June 2014) (the "ORV Regulations").

1. The use of vehicles in the coastal area must be only for the purposes mentioned in the ORV Regulations.
2. The vehicles and drivers must be licensed and vehicles be roadworthy.
3. No vehicular access is allowed within 100 metres of the following environmentally sensitive areas:
  - 3.1.1. Shell middens, fish traps, wetlands, salt marshes, estuaries, dunes, river mouths, or any other areas of fragile, rare, relict, or vanishing vegetation.
  - 3.1.2. Unsuitable physical attributes of beaches, and natural barriers such as rocky headlands, ledges, and wave-cut rocky platforms.
  - 3.1.3. Areas of fragile natural ecosystem or scientific interest such as turtle nests during nesting seasons which normally starts around October- February and bird roosting and nesting sites.
4. Vehicle specifications
  - 4.1.1. The Code of Conduct applies to vehicles as defined in the ORV Regulations.
  - 4.1.2. A vehicle is required to be fitted with a minimum tyre width of 190mm and a maximum pressure of 1.5 bar.
  - 4.1.3. The use of Quad bikes is supported only for use by officials responding to emergencies or persons with disabilities who have a valid permit from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
  - 4.1.4. Officials using vehicles in the coastal area must mark their vehicles where possible with Departmental logos or magnetic decals for easy identification.
  - 4.1.5. External contractors appointed by an organ of state or an agent of the organ of state must have a contract from the organ of state to undertake any task in the coastal area using vehicles. The contract must be produced on request by the Authorised Officer.

5. Access to the coastal area must only be via existing designated access points and Public Launch Sites unless such access points have been authorised for use by the relevant authority.
6. Vehicles must be used below the high water mark at all times after gaining access to the coastal area.
7. No vehicles are allowed on dunes or dune vegetation and no parking is allowed on these features unless they coincide with an access point.
8. A maximum speed limit of 20km/h applies on the beach and care must be exercised so as not to endanger the safety and well-being of other persons in the coastal area.
9. No over-tiding or night driving is allowed unless in cases of emergencies or enforcement or authorised by the relevant authority. This also applies to earthy-moving equipment.
10. Vehicle use in terms of Regulation 3 of the ORV Regulations is a lawful use of a vehicle in the coastal area that is permitted without the requirement to obtain a permit or an exemption. Refer to DFFE clarification for permissible use provisions on driving in the coastal area without the need to obtain a permit in terms of the control of use of vehicles in the coastal area regulations (gn r496 of 27 June 2014) (Reference: EDMS-206285).
11. Vehicle users must avoid beaches for bathing so as to avoid conflict of user groups.
12. Vehicle users including authorised drivers, must at all times ensure that the use of vehicles does not cause significant harm or an adverse effect on the coastal environment. In this regard, the Permit Holder must take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent adverse effects from occurring, continuing, or recurring, or in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such adverse effect on the coastal environment.
13. **Any person who contravenes any provision of the ORV Regulations or a condition of the permit issued shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of up to a maximum of R500 000 per vehicle per offence or to imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both such fine and such imprisonment.**