

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
LEGISLATION INTERPRETATIONS**



<b>Topic</b>	ROPS on lawn tractors & 4-wheelers	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
<b>Statute</b>	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: Sept 15, 2004
<b>Section</b>	220(1)	Date Revised:

**220(1)** An employer shall ensure that powered mobile equipment manufactured on or after January 1, 1974 is equipped with a rollover protective structure that meets the minimum safety requirements of CSA standard B352-M1980, "Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) for Agricultural, Construction, Earthmoving, Forestry, Industrial, and Mining Machines".

**Question**

Do we need ROPS and seat belts on a lawn tractor or a 4-wheeler or other amphibious vehicles?

**Response**

The definition for powered mobile equipment is as follows:

*"powered mobile equipment" means self-propelled off-highway equipment used for construction, mining, agriculture, forestry and other purposes and includes front-end loaders, dozers, backhoes, excavators, skidders, forwarders, tree-harvesters, scrapers, compactors, rollers, graders, agricultural tractors and industrial tractors, but does not include industrial lift trucks or mobile cranes.*

According to our definition 4-wheeler or other amphibious vehicles are not powered mobile equipment therefore they are not required to meet section 220(1). However, according to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, an employer must take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of all its employees, including those who operate or ride on such vehicles. The employer, in conjunction with the JHSC or the Health and Safety representative, if there is one, should therefore perform an analysis to determine if there is a risk of overturning. Factors, including but not limited to slope, terrain, speed of travel, and loading should be considered. If a risk of overturning is determined, ROPS and seat belts should be provided. If the equipment cannot support ROPS than it should not be operated in a manner where there is a risk of overturning.

In the case of the lawn tractor it is felt that it is powered mobile equipment and would therefore be required to meet section 220(1). However lawn tractors do not meet the scope of the CSA standard, which applies to Agricultural, Construction, Earthmoving, Forestry, Industrial, and Mining Machines. Therefore the lawn tractors are also not required to have ROPS. But again due to the responsibility of the employer, an analysis to determine if there is a risk of overturning should be performed in conjunction with the JHSC or the Health and Safety representative, if there is one. Factors, including but not limited to, slope, terrain, speed of travel, and loading should be considered. If a risk of overturning is determined, ROPS and seat belts should be provided. If the equipment cannot support ROPS than it should not be operated in a manner where there is a risk of overturning.