



Standard Safety Guide for Consumer Recreational Use of Fun-Karts¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide relates to the use and maintenance of commercially manufactured fun-karts intended for private use, on suitable off-road terrain, by consumers.

1.2 This guide is intended to reduce hazards, other than those inherent in the sport of fun-karting, to the users of fun-karts during normal intended use.

1.3 This guide applies to fun-karts for private use and does not apply to concession, race, home-made, consumer-modified karts, karts that are pedal-powered, unpowered karts, or karts that are used for commercial purposes.

1.4 This guide specifically recognizes that there are operational hazards relating to fun-karts that operators and passengers are deemed to have accepted by their use and operation of the fun-kart including, but not limited to, falling out, running into, through, under or over objects, upsetting the kart, general operator recklessness, pinches, scratches, or bruises, or a combination thereof.

1.5 This guide does not cover product performance or quality, labeling, maintenance, or safety devices.

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

2.1.1 *axle guard, n*—a device, which covers the drive axle on fun-karts, so that the possibility of injury resulting from hand, hair, loose clothing, or body parts contacting the axle is reduced.

2.1.2 *brush bars, n*—any device supplied by the manufacturer intended to deflect loose vegetation from the path of the fun-kart operator and passenger, if any (on two-seat karts).

2.1.3 *concession kart, n*—karts used by the public for a fee.

2.1.4 *engine stop switch, n*—a toggle switch, or other two-position positively engaging switch, which when activated causes the engine to stop or not operate, or both.

2.1.5 *fun-kart, n*—a gas powered motorized vehicle with four wheels sold commercially as consumer goods and intended for private personal recreational use by consumers for off-road use on suitable terrain, as recommended by the manufacturer, at speeds over 12 mph, but not exceeding 40 mph.

2.1.6 *race kart, n*—karts intended by the manufacturer for racing on tracks, streets, or other areas in competition.

2.1.7 *supervisor, n*—a competent person of legal age of consent knowledgeable with regard to the fun-kart, its safe operation and maintenance, who is responsible for ensuring that each operator and passenger(s) (in any two-seat kart) comply with the manufacturers' written materials for use, maintenance, and operation.

2.1.8 *throttle stop, n*—a device used to limit the travel of the throttle control.

2.1.9 *two-seat fun kart, n*—a fun-kart with designed seating to accommodate one operator and one passenger.

3. Qualifications for Fun-Kart Users

3.1 Fun-karts, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, are restricted to use by consumers with a minimum age of eight years old, who meet the physical and cognitive capabilities set out by the manufacturer in the material provided with the fun-kart.

4. General Guidance for Safe Use and Maintenance of Fun-Karts

4.1 Fun-karts shall not be modified from the manufacturer's original design and configuration.

4.2 Fun-karts shall not be operated to perform racing, stunt riding, jumps, spin-outs, donuts, or other maneuvers, which may cause loss of control, or may cause uncontrolled operator/passenger or kart actions or reactions, as such activities are likely to result in possible injury to the operator or passenger, or bystanders, or a combination thereof.

4.3 Fun-kart engines shall not be started unless the operator and any passenger (in a two-seat kart) are seated in the proper position for vehicle operations with the operator's hands on the steering wheel, and the brake fully engaged.

4.4 Fun-karts shall not be operated with any modifications to the kart or its components.

4.5 No person shall allow hands, feet, hair, body parts, clothing, or similar articles to come in contact with moving parts of the fun kart, wheels or drive train, while the engine is running.

4.6 Prior to each cycle of operation, a supervisor shall perform the preoperation checks specified by the manufacturer, and further verify:

4.6.1 Smooth throttle operation and positive return of the throttle linkage to a closed throttle position;

4.6.2 That the throttle stop operates properly and that the throttle cable or other linkages be adjusted properly;

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4.6.3 That the steering linkage is adjusted and operates properly;

4.6.4 That the engine stop switch is properly functioning;

4.6.5 That all guards and pads originally supplied by the manufacturer are in proper place on the fun-kart and in serviceable condition;

4.6.6 That the area that the fun-kart is to be operated in is safe and suitable for fun-kart operation;

4.6.7 That engine idle speed is below the point of clutch engagement;

4.6.8 That brush bars, if provided, are mounted properly and intact;

4.6.9 That, on those fun-karts equipped with restraints, such restraints are in good condition, functioning properly, and used appropriately;

4.6.10 That the gas tank is in good condition and that the proper gas cap is fastened securely;

4.6.11 That the braking system on the fun-kart is functioning properly;

4.6.12 That all safety labels are in place and understood by the operator and any passenger (on fun-karts designed to carry an operator and a passenger);

4.6.13 That any and all axle guards, chain guards, torque converter covers, or other covers or guards supplied by the manufacturer are in place and in serviceable condition;

4.6.14 That tires are in good condition, inflated properly, and have sufficient tread remaining; and

4.6.15 That all fasteners are in place and tightened properly.

4.7 Fun-karts shall be fueled only by a supervisor knowledgeable with regard to proper refueling techniques as established by the fun kart's engine manufacturer's manual.

4.8 A supervisor shall verify personally that anyone operating or riding in a fun-kart (in two-seat fun-karts) is knowledgeable, capable, and has the cognitive capacity to operate the fun-kart safely, including those items specified in 4.1 through 4.6.15.

4.8.1 The supervisor only shall allow the use and operation of the fun-kart after a demonstration that such operators can understand and operate all components of the fun-kart prior to use.

4.8.2 The supervisor shall provide continuous supervision during fun-kart use.

4.9 Fun-kart operators and passengers (in two-seat karts) shall adhere to all manufacturer's recommendations and instructions, as well as comply with all laws and ordinances, as well as:

4.9.1 Operators shall stay seated with both hands on the steering wheel and both feet in the fun-kart at all times, whether moving or stationary, unless the fun-kart is stopped completely and the engine has been turned off,

4.9.2 Passengers (in two-seat karts) shall remain seated with arms and legs inside the fun-kart at all times during kart operations,

4.9.3 Shall observe maximum and minimum weight/height, or age restrictions, or a combination thereof,

4.9.4 Shall not allow anyone to ride in or operate fun-kart if hair, clothing, or other articles can extend past the fun-kart seat back or under the fun-kart's wheels,

4.9.5 Shall not allow smoking in fun-kart,

4.9.6 Persons under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or intoxicants shall not supervise, operate, or ride in a fun-kart,

4.9.7 Operators and passengers (in two-seat karts) shall comply with all fun-karting instructions, including those set out on warning labels attached to the fun-kart,

4.9.8 Fun karts shall operate only on surface or terrain as recommended by the fun-kart's manufacturer,

4.9.9 Fun-karts shall not be operated on roads, streets, highways, or at any other location where road vehicles are intended to travel, and

4.9.10 Fun-karts shall be operated only with adequate lighting and under conditions of suitable visibility.

4.10 Persons with the following conditions shall not ride in or operate a fun kart:

4.10.1 Those with heart conditions;

4.10.2 Pregnant women;

4.10.3 Persons with head, back, or neck ailments, or prior surgeries to those areas of the body; and

4.10.4 Persons with any mental or physical conditions, which may make them susceptible to injury or impair their physical dexterity or mental capabilities to recognize, understand, and perform all of the safety instructions, and to be able to assume the hazards inherent in fun-kart use.

4.11 Fun-karts shall not be used to:

4.11.1 Transport a passenger except in a seating area provided by the manufacturer on two-seat karts;

4.11.2 Transport materials or equipment, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer;

4.11.3 Transport animals.

4.12 Single-seat karts shall be used by the operator only.

4.13 No more than the operator and one passenger shall be allowed in fun-karts designed for two people, as specified by the manufacturer's instructions.

4.14 Fun-kart operators and passengers always shall use appropriate protective clothing, including but not limited to a helmet and eye protection, with appropriate certification, and any other equipment recommended by the fun-kart manufacturer.

4.15 No operator, passenger, or other person shall contact any portion of the engine, wheels, or drive train for any purpose including maintenance until the engine has been turned off and allowed to cool, and the fun-kart is in a stable and stationary position.

4.16 Where a manufacturer equips its fun-karts with restraints, the use of the restraints shall be in accordance with, and limited to, the manufacturer's guidelines.

4.17 Fun-kart components shall be maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and utilizing only the manufacturer's authorized replacement parts with installation performed by dealers or other skilled persons.

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