

**Guidelines for the Use of Historic Motorised Vehicles
in Re-enactment involving predominately members of the
Queensland Living History Federation Inc.
(with thanks to NARES for their assistance)
(14th August 2003)**

1.0 MINIMUM AGE FOR VEHICLE CREWS

A minimum age of sixteen (16) is set for participation as vehicle crew at QLHF events. A person under the age of eighteen (18) must provide written parental or guardian consent to the President or Training Officer of their club before that person will be allowed to participate in combat. Such permission must be shown to the QLHF vehicle coordinator upon request.

2.0 ALCOHOL AND OTHER PERFORMANCE EFFECTING SUBSTANCES

No one shall operate or crew a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other performance effecting substances.

Any member of a vehicle crew found to be under the influence of alcohol or other performance effecting substances will be barred from further participation at the event, suffer disciplinary action or may be expelled from the organisation.

If any member of a vehicle crew has a pre-existing medical condition that could effect safety in combat, it must be declared to the QLHF vehicle coordinator before participation.

3.0 Public Liability / General Insurance Requirements

All Motor Vehicles used at Re-enactments must be covered by the participating Society's own Public Liability insurance. The Vehicle itself must be separately insured, to include a public liability clause. It is worthwhile making sure that the vehicle insurance covers the drivers that intend to operate the vehicle at the event and that the insurance covers off road use.

It is the responsibility of the prospective driver to confirm insurance cover with the owner before taking charge of a vehicle. It is also the responsibility of the Re-enactment group to ensure that their Public Liability insurance covers the use of Motor Vehicles at events - such proof of cover should be disclosed to event organisers.

4.0 QLHF Vehicle Co-ordinator

QLHF, for public and inter-group events, shall (upon request of an event organiser) appoint a QLHF vehicle coordinator from among its members. All participating group Vehicle representatives shall be subordinate to the QLHF vehicle coordinator.

Each participating group may be required to provide a representative for central contact.

The QLHF vehicle co-ordinator's rulings on the field are to be followed without question.

5.0 Vehicle Representatives at an Event

Vehicle representatives are responsible for making sure all member of the vehicle crews are aware of the rules of usage before the display commences. Vehicle representatives shall conduct safety checks on their respective vehicles before the display commences.

During a display, a vehicle representative's duties are:

- to STOP ACTIVITY for reasons of safety (eg first aid, danger to participants or observers etc)
- to STOP ACTIVITY if dangerous actions are taking place and intervention is required
- to calm member of the vehicle crews down
- to preserve the safety of the public
- to talk to members of the vehicle crews to modify their behaviour

The QLHF vehicle coordinator 's duties are :

- to make vehicles - or members of the vehicle crews - leave the field because of dangerous behaviour
- to make members of the vehicle crews remove dangerous equipment from the field

Vehicle representatives shall meet after any event with the QLHF vehicle co-ordinator to report any incidents or matters of safety requiring further action to be taken.

6.0 Vehicle Condition

It is the duty of organisations to ensure that their own members - and guests - providing and using vehicles at events, have ensured that their vehicles are maintained in a safe and roadworthy condition at all times. The onus is on the Owner and driver of the Vehicle to prove that the vehicle is in a safe condition, for example that Brakes are in good working order.

Member Societies are strongly recommended to ensure that such periodic safety checks have been carried out and that documentation is in place for the vehicles used.

7.0 Vehicle Movement Generally

Vehicles should move through a public show ground only in accordance with the wishes of the organisers, a suggested maximum speed being 10Kms per hour.

Each vehicle should have an in-board observer, a role separate from the driver. This may not be possible with single motorcycles.

Vehicles of limited driver visibility are to be escorted at all times whilst in motion with guides at the front and rear of the unit whilst moving through any area where the public is present but is not completely necessary in designated non-public combat areas.

By way of a warning to members of the Public suitable advanced warning procedures should be adopted, for example: Headlamps should be illuminated and horn or siren warnings and the use of guides - who will remain in clear site of the vehicle - should be considered.

If this isn't practical, consideration should be given to the use of historically correct warning devices such as flags or whistles etc. Particular care is to be used when reversing.

All vehicle movement during a battle re-enactment should be with the agreement of the event organisers and society safety officer. When operating with ground personnel, the vehicle movements should be strictly choreographed.

The Driver is responsible for controlling the vehicle in a safe manner. The driver should not attempt to perform any other task, while in control of the moving vehicle.

Only persons wearing helmets should be allowed on motorbikes including sidecars.

8.0 Tracked Vehicle Movement

Tracked vehicles should not move through crowds unless absolutely necessary, in which case responsible adults should walk ahead and to the side of the vehicle to warn members of the public. Judicious use of an advance warning vehicle is recommended. (see also point 7.0).

When a tracked vehicle is taking part in a battle re-enactment, due care must be exercised by the vehicle crews and fellow re-enactors. Suitable briefings as to the movements of vehicles should be given, and the safety implications to both crew and fellow re-enactors and the public carefully considered.

9.0 Vehicle Speed

Vehicles should be driven at a responsible speed at all times (a suggested maximum speed being 10Kms per hour).

It is recommended that guidance on vehicle movement speeds around any public area at a re-enactment be sought from the event organisers; also vehicle speeds that are acceptable to the event organiser when vehicles are performing during a staged battle re-enactment

10.0 Driver Qualification

All vehicles being driven should be done so by the holder of a current driving licence for that class of vehicle, and that person should be familiar with that particular vehicle.

Should the driver not be the owner, said driver should have full permission of the owner to be in charge of the vehicle.

If the driver has no licence for the type of vehicle and it is being driven on Private land, then the onus is on the Owner, Principal Driver and Re-enactment Society to ensure that there is sufficient documentary evidence to prove that the driver is sufficiently competent to be in control of the said Vehicle.

Due consideration should be given to the type of Vehicle being used, as some older vehicles may have unfamiliar controls, so even a properly Licensed driver would be unwise to drive the vehicle in public without prior experience.

The member society should make it clear to their members who are, and who are not permitted to drive vehicles at public events.

It is not advisable for Learner Drivers, a child or an unqualified person to take the controls of a Motor vehicle at a public event.

11.0 Restricted Driver Vision

If any moving vehicle has restricted vision (for example an armoured car/tank), a responsible adult must act as vehicle commander. He must be in voice contact with the driver. It is the commander's responsibility to ensure passenger safety, especially when persons are mounting or dismounting from the vehicle, which should be done other than by using the tracks or wheels as footrests.

12.0 Projections from Vehicles

Drivers must ensure that any projections outside the normal overall width, length and height of their vehicle such as whip aerials or ring-mounted machine-guns, are properly secured before moving off, especially when moving through crowds.

13.0 Passengers

No vehicle must carry more passengers than the number of seats on that vehicle. All Personnel should be correctly seated and properly supervised. On general vehicles and fully armoured tracked vehicles, only trained persons are to be carried on the exterior of the vehicle.

The vehicle owner has absolute authority if this will be carried out at all and to exactly who - and how - will carry it out.

Drivers, crew and passengers should wear non-skid footwear when riding in / on vehicles.

On amphibious vehicles, all crew and passengers must be equipped with flotation devices or life jackets when waterborne. While waterborne, appropriate seafaring regulations must be complied with for ocean going craft.

14.0 Public Rides

It is not recommended that Historic Vehicles be used to offer rides to members of the Public at events. Consideration must be given to the insurance implications of such an activity.

15.0 Vehicle use in Parades

If vehicles are to be utilised as part of a marching parade on the Highway then they must possess the relevant documentation required by law. The Driver must have the required License to operate the type of vehicle on the public Highway as required by law, and be suitably insured. The Vehicle must possess all required Legal documentation, and should be in a fit roadworthy state.

When operating a vehicle at low speeds as part of a procession etc, great care should be taken to ensure that fellow participants in the parade and the public are not endangered.

16.0 Vehicle use in Static Displays

The following should be complied with:

It is suggested that a maximum speed of 10Kms per hour should be used when entering a site/ event area for displays.

Vehicles should be parked and secured in their designated positions in by the time specified by organisers or they may be refused entry.

Vehicles not to leave before by the time specified by organisers without approval, approved vehicles leaving before that time are to have the appropriate guides.

Vehicles are to remain static unless participating in an approved parade - in which case a guide is required.

Vehicles are to have an attendant with them at all times - this can be one person per two (2) vehicles.

17.0 Securing Vehicles

All Motor vehicles used as part of a re-enactment or static display should be secured so as to prevent members of the public driving them away. The best security would be for the Vehicles to be either roped off, or attended to prevent unauthorised access - this can be one person per two (2) vehicles.

Vehicles left on Static display should have wheels chocked, and engine starters immobilised. If applicable, doors should be locked to stop unauthorised access.

18.0 Storage of Hazardous Substances

Many Vehicles, in particular Military types, are equipped with securing brackets for the fitment of external fuel carrying devices such as Jerry cans. Care should be taken when carrying Flammable fuels in such containers to ensure that no unauthorised access is given to the public to such containers. It is recommended that these containers are empty or removed if at all possible. If containers are to be stored in large quantities at an event then consideration should be given to the provision of suitable fire buckets (Sand filled for spillage) and extinguishers.

If it is necessary to re-fuel a vehicle from cans on site, it is common sense to be vigilant and ensure that there are no members of the public that may be smoking, using transmitting equipment or that there are naked flames in the vicinity - a sign should be carried with the vehicle and displayed that warns of a re-fueling operations being carried out and that there should be no smoking or naked flames (duty of care).

19.0 Fire Risk/ Emergency

It is recommended that all vehicles be fitted with a modern suitable Fire Extinguisher and equipped with First Aid Kits in prominent positions. Trained first aid personnel should be in attendance when vehicles are being used.

20.0 Non Historic Vehicles used in Re-enactments and Static Displays

Vehicles that are of modern manufacture, yet outwardly depict a historical type (eg a reproduction 1910 van, "AFV" built over a standard chassis etc) will be regarded as historical vehicles for the purposes of this guideline.
