

# SNOWMOBILE SAFETY AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



**- SSCC/11 Supplement -**

## **Detailed Standards and Testing Specifications and Procedures**

Sponsored by

Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee, Inc.  
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Newly introduced text, or amendment, in this version is highlighted in grey.

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## INTRODUCTION

The recreation and sport of snowmobiling goes back several decades. However, the snowmobile manufacturing industry did not organize itself until 1965 when it formed the International Snowmobile Industry Association (ISIA). The ISIA had been the focal point for industry activities in all facets of the recreation of snowmobiling until it evolved into the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) in 1995. ISMA represents manufacturers of snowmobiles in Canada, the United States, Finland and Japan.

As the use of snowmobiles increased, it became apparent that there existed a need for safety programs within the snowmobile industry and within the community of snowmobilers. In April 1970, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) was encouraged by the snowmobile manufacturers to form a subcommittee to develop recommended practices to guide all snowmobile manufacturers in the production of safe snowmobiles. In 1971 and 1972, these recommended practices, developed through the SAE and from other sources, began to be assembled by the Safety Engineer Committee of ISIA into a single usable document. This document was finally published by the ISIA in May 1973 as the *Manual of Recommended Standards and Engineering Practices for Snowmobiles*. At the same time, ISIA published its *Recommendations Regarding Snowmobile Use Regulations* which addressed itself to the regulation of snowmobiles in use.

In August 1973, the International Snowmobile Council (ISC) was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada by a founding group of associations representing snowmobilers at the provincial and state levels in Canada and the U.S., and representing snowmobile dealers, snowmobile distributors, and snowmobile manufacturers. The ISC is a federation of these associations which concerns itself with recommending solutions to problems confronting the individual snowmobiler, his club, and the snowmobile industry.

The *ISIA Manual of Recommended Standards and Engineering Practices for Snowmobiles* was submitted to ISC members for their review in August 1973 and again in May 1974.

In June 1973, this ISIA manual was submitted to the Canadian Federal Department of Transport and to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for their review.

In furtherance of its commitment to safe snowmobiling, the ISIA was instrumental in the formation of the Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee, Inc. (SSCC) in May 1974. The ISMA now works with the SSCC.

The Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee, Inc. (SSCC) is a nonprofit membership association which is concerned with one major area of activity: snowmobiles and how they relate to product safety.

This document is concerned with the development and implementation of minimum voluntary product safety standards for snowmobile manufacture and certification. The SSCC approved its first set of standards on February 1, 1975, which were designated SSCC/1. The second through the tenth editions of the document which incorporated changes were designated SSCC/2, ..., SSCC/9 and SSCC/10 respectively. Since the eleventh edition of this document, only the revision date reflects the current updates. The provisions of SSCC/11 are set forth in this document.

The requirements specified in this document apply mostly to recreational snowmobiles. All snowmobiles of participating manufacturers which are produced will comply with the requirements of SSCC/11.

Under the certification program, an independent laboratory has been employed by the Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee, Inc. to certify compliance by participating manufacturers. Verification of compliance is thus achieved by a rigorous system of evaluation of initial and continued compliance with SSCC/11.

Under the program, all snowmobile models determined to be in compliance with SSCC/11 will bear a permanent certification label as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – SSCC Certification Label.



SSCC/11 is an outgrowth of the earlier work done by the snowmobile manufacturing industry to develop minimum standards for the manufacture of snowmobiles. In May 1973, and outlined above, the International Snowmobile Industry Association approved a document entitled *Manual of Recommended Standards and Engineering Practices for Snowmobiles*. SSCC/11 incorporates the portion of this document that pertains to snowmobile safety with changes necessary to establish safety standards which may be enforced through third party, independent certification. It is important that it be noted that SSCC/11 constitutes minimum standards for snowmobiles and components.

The SSCC actively solicits and encourages the submission of recommendations for changes, deletions, additions to and clarification in interpretations of SSCC/11.

## SCOPE

The standard sets forth safety performance requirements and test procedures for the sub-assemblies and assemblies of snowmobiles.

A Class I, Competitive snowmobile, as defined in the Definition section, may be exempted by its Manufacturer from all the requirements of this document.

## REFERENCES

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein.

The latest issue of SAE publications shall become effective upon publication. A maximum of eighteen (18) months shall be given to Manufacturers prior to the incorporation of any new or revised publications. Except upon a specific written request of a Manufacturer to the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days after publication, this time may be extended by the Board of Directors up to a period not to exceed twenty four (24) months.

The year of any substantiating report, certificates and/or other data must be no more than five years old from the effective model year. Over this five year period, supporting data maintains its validity through changes of the SAE standards.

### SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).

SAE ICS1000 Recreation Off-Road Vehicle Product Identification Numbering System

SAE J33 Snowmobile Definitions and Nomenclature – General

SAE J44 Service Brake System Performance Requirements – Snowmobile

SAE J68 Tests for Snowmobile Switching Devices and Components

- SAE J89 Dynamic Cushioning Performance Criteria for Snowmobile Seats
- SAE J92 Snowmobile Throttle Control Systems,
- SAE J192 Maximum Exterior Sound Level for Snowmobiles
- SAE J272 Vehicle Identification Number Systems
- SAE J277 Maintenance of Design Voltage - Snowmobile Electrical Systems
- SAE J288 Snowmobile Fuel Tanks
- SAE J292 Snowmobile and Snowmobile Cutter Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment
- SAE J1038 Recommendations for Children's Snowmobile
- SAE J1062 Snowmobile Passenger Handgrips
- SAE J1161 Operational Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Snowmobiles
- SAE J1222 Speed Control Assurance for Snowmobiles
- SAE J1279 Snowmobile Drive Mechanisms
- SAE J1282 Snowmobile Brake Control Systems
- SAE J2826 Probe Test for Contact with Power Driven Parts
  
- CMVSS 115 Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation, C.R.C.,c. 1038, Standard 115, [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/acts-regulations/regulations-crc-c1038.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/acts-regulations/regulations-crc-c1038.htm)

## DEFINITIONS

The definitions of SAE J33 are part of this document.

**Braking Distance:** The distance traveled between the point of first application of the brake control and the point at which the snowmobile comes to rest.

**Designed or Designed To:** Designed and constructed in such a manner as to be expected in the exercise of reasonable and prudent engineering judgment, and assuming proper maintenance to achieve the desired performance level under normal conditions of operation.

**Guard or Shield:** A part or assembly provided for personal safety.

**Right or Right-hand ; Left or Left-hand:** The designation which refers to the orientation of the snowmobile when the operator is at the operator's position, facing forward.

**Snowmobile:** A self-propelled vehicle intended for off-road travel primarily on snow, having a curb weight of not more than 453.59 kg (1,000 lb.); driven by track or tracks in contact with the snow; and steered by a ski or skis in contact with the snow.

A snowmobile may be classified under the following special classes:

**Class I, Competitive:** A snowmobile intended solely for use in organized public racing. Racing snowmobiles are snowmobiles advertised and sold by the manufacturer for use on race courses only and not for use on trails.

**Class II, Children:** A snowmobile intended for daylight use, in restricted off-road areas, primarily on snow. This vehicle is intended to be used by a child at least 6 years of age, under adult supervision.

**SSCC/11:** Means SSCC/11 Supplement, "Detailed Standards and Testing Specifications and Procedures", and SSCC/11, "Safety Standards for Snowmobile Product Certification". Both documents were combined into the single SSCC/11 Supplement in the 2018 version. It is available from *Snowmobile Safety and Certification Committee, Inc.* at [www.snowmobilesafetycertification.org](http://www.snowmobilesafetycertification.org).

**Vehicle:** The word "vehicle" is to be interpreted as interchangeable with "snowmobile."



# 1 - DOCUMENTATION

Compliance with any of the provisions of this document shall be reported in detail for potential review by a third party. Test reports shall minimally include the following information:

1. Manufacturer name;
2. Title of test and reference to related provisions of this document. For example, "SSCC/11 Supplement section 4 Occupant Support System, dated 18 October 2017";
3. Performance and test method standards. For example, SAE standard reference number and version: SAE J89:2014;
4. Test report reference number and date. Includes a unique manufacturer identifier and/or outside laboratory number/name;
5. Name of testing laboratory (in house or external);
6. Part name or description, part number, part manufacturer reference and/or snowmobile representative model name/number;
7. Test and/or environmental conditions, where required. If a condition is specified, it shall be documented (e.g. required condition of "approach the starting point at a steady speed of 24 km/h  $\pm$  4 km/h" and a test report documenting "steady state speed of 26.4 km/h at starting point...");
8. Test equipment information and calibration data. For example, last or next calibration date;
9. Test data. Includes any tabulations and/or required calculations;
10. Pass/Fail status. Shows individual compliance criteria, where applicable;
11. Technician and supervisor name and signatures;
12. Test date and/or report date;
13. Conclusion or compliance statement as well as, if applicable, any deviations from the procedure.

## **2 - SNOWMOBILE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### ***2.1 - Class II, Children Snowmobile General Requirements***

Class II, Children snowmobiles shall comply with the provisions specified in SAE J1038 in lieu of all the following sections.

### ***2.2 - Snowmobile General Requirement***

Snowmobiles, except for Class II, Children, shall comply with all the subsequent sections, unless so stated in the particular section.

## **3 - SOUND EMISSION**

### ***3.1 - Constant Velocity***

The sound pressure level of the snowmobile shall not exceed 73 decibels on the “A” scale (73 dB(A)) when tested in accordance with SAE J1161.

### ***3.2 - Acceleration***

The sound pressure level of the snowmobile shall not exceed 78 decibels on the “A” scale (78 dB(A)) when tested in accordance with SAE J192.

## **4 - OCCUPANT SUPPORT SYSTEM**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with an occupant support system that complies with the requirements specified in SAE J89.

NOTE: There are no approved tests for seats having shapes significantly different from those depicted in SAE J33.

## **5 - CONTROLS**

### ***5.1 - Throttle Control System***

The snowmobile shall be equipped with a throttle control system that complies with the requirements specified in SAE J92.

In addition to the laboratory testing of the previous paragraph, the adequacy of the system shall be verified by field testing. Documentation is expected.

### ***5.2 - Device Preventing Snowmobile Runaway***

#### **5.2.1 - Runaway Prevention Device**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with either a runaway prevention device or tether switch that complies with the requirements of both SAE J1222 and SAE J68.

#### **5.2.2 - Emergency Shutoff Switch**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with an emergency shutoff switch, designed to provide an instantaneous interruption of the engine ignition system. It shall be readily accessible and designed for activation by the operator's right hand when in his/her normal driving position. It shall maintain interruption once activated without continuous contact from the operator's hand and, shall be red or orange.

The emergency shutoff switch shall comply with the requirements specified in SAE J68.

### ***5.3 - Braking System***

#### **5.3.1 – Service Brake System Performance**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with a service braking system that performs as per the requirements specified in SAE J44.

#### **5.3.2 – Brake Control System**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with a brake control system that complies with the requirements specified in SAE J1282.

In addition to laboratory testing of the previous paragraph, the adequacy of the system shall be verified by field testing. Documentation is expected.

### ***5.4 - Stop Lamp Switch***

The snowmobile shall be equipped with a stop lamp switch that complies with the requirements of SAE J68.

## **6 - FUEL SYSTEM**

The snowmobile shall be equipped with a fuel tank and attachments that comply with the requirements specified in SAE J288.

In addition to the fuel tank requirements of the previous paragraph, the snowmobile shall comply with:

1. Any spillage from the fuel tank filler and vent opening is led away from the snowmobile hot parts or electrical components;
2. All tank penetrations/openings shall be provided with appropriate liquid tight fittings and so located as to minimize the possibility of foreseeable damage during normal operation and/or service.

## **7 - SHIELDS AND GUARDS**

### ***7.1 - Physical Contact***

Power driven parts of the engine, clutch and drive system, with the exception of the snowmobile track and sprocket system, shall be isolated by consoles, shields or guards of sufficient size, shape and configuration designed so as to prevent their physical contact with the operator, passengers or bystanders during normal use of the snowmobile. All consoles, shields and guards shall be in position and the hood closed.

The snowmobile shall comply with the requirements specified in SAE J2826.

### ***7.2 - Shields and Guards***

Shields and/or guards shall be provided to protect the operator, passengers or bystanders in the case of failure of any moving part of the drive train, except for the track or tracks in contact with the snow.

The vehicle shall be equipped with footrests/running boards, at each side of the frame, for the operator and the passengers.

If the snowmobile is fitted with a moving transmission part (e.g. continuously variable transmission (CVT) ) and a removable guard, the user(s) shall be informed by a marking of the residual risks due to the operation of the snowmobile with the unguarded moving part. The marking shall be permanent (decal or other mean) and located in the vicinity of the guard, visible from a person's position when removing or installing the removable guard. The marking may be pictogram(s) or text. In the case of text, it shall minimally be provided in both English and French.

**7.3** – (7.2 & 7.3 were combined in March 2019)

### ***7.4 - Heat Protection***

Such additional shields and/or guards shall be provided to prevent inadvertent contact by the occupant(s) with any exposed components sufficiently hot to cause burns during normal operation of the snowmobile with all such components secured in position in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

## ***7.5 - Drive Mechanism***

The snowmobile shall be equipped with drive mechanisms (drive pulleys, torque converters, centrifugal clutches, or similar mechanisms) that comply with the requirements specified in SAE J1279.

## **8 - LIGHTING SYSTEM**

### ***8.1 - Lighting***

The snowmobile shall comply with the requirements specified in SAE J292.

### ***8.2 - Headlamp beam switch***

If the snowmobile is equipped with a headlamp beam switch, it shall comply with the requirements of SAE J68.

## **9 - PASSENGER HANDGRIPS**

If the snowmobile may be occupied by one operator and at least one passenger, each passenger designated seating position shall be fitted with handgrip(s) which comply with the requirements specified in SAE J1062.

## **10 - GENERAL HAZARDS**

### ***10.1 - Snowmobile Capacity***

The snowmobile capacity shall be marked on the snowmobile to indicate how many person(s) may occupy the vehicle. The marking shall be permanent (decal or other mean) and located on the external surface of the snowmobile, visible from the operator's designated seating position. The marking may be pictogram(s) or text. In the case of text, it shall be in both English and French.

Text marking example:

“This snowmobile is designed for one (1) operator and as many passengers as there are seats with a handgrip strap or handgrips installed on the snowmobile. / Cette motoneige a été conçu pour un (1) conducteur et autant de passagers qu'il y a de sièges munis de sangle ou poignées installées sur la motoneige. ”.

## **10.2 - Levers and Controls**

All levers and controls shall have blunt ends. No switch, control, console, or steering control shall have sharp edges or sharp protrusions or be so positioned so as to be hazardous to the operator or passengers under conditions of normal use.

## **11 - SNOWMOBILE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING**

All snowmobiles shall have an identification number assigned by the manufacturer using either a PIN as prescribed in SAE ICS1000, or a VIN as prescribed by CMVSS 115 or SAE J272.

## **12 - SNOWMOBILE EXHAUST SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION**

Based on the compliance with section 3 on Sound Emission, the snowmobile shall be equipped with an exhaust system that complies with the requirements of this section.

The exhaust system critical component(s) shall be marked as followed:

“SSCC”

with the manufacturer's name or trademark.

Additional information may be marked in the vicinity of the above marking.

The letters shall be legible and have a minimum height of 4 mm. The marking on the exhaust silencer shall be visible and legible to an observer by lifting a snowmobile hood / shroud and without detaching or dismantling any component parts. The marking shall be embossed and pressed or attached in a similarly durable manner to the outer surface of the exhaust silencer assembly, and resistance to alteration. The marking shall be so affixed that it shall be difficult to remove, replace or alter without detection.

## **13 - ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

The maintenance of design voltage in the electrical system of a snowmobile shall comply with the requirements specified in SAE J277.



## **APPENDIX I - REVISIONS PROCESS**

The SSCC Technical Committee shall be open to comments and/or document amendment proposals formally submitted to the SSCC Chairman.

This document should be reviewed at least every 5 years.

The SSCC Technical Committee is responsible for the review process and the SSCC Board of Directors is responsible to approve the changes. The latter approval shall at least be marked with a revision date on the cover sheet of this document.

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