



<b>SURFACE VEHICLE STANDARD</b>	<b>J1038™</b>	<b>JAN2025</b>
	Issued 1975-12 Reaffirmed 1984-10 Revised 2025-01	
Superseding J1038 JAN2020		
Children's Snowmobile		

## RATIONALE

Changed from a "Recommended Practice" to a "Standard" as required for all snowmobile standards by the technical committee.

Section 4.6 revised to allow strength testing at 111 N. Sections 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 revised as SAE J45 was cancelled in February 2020.

"Engine" replaced with "engine/motor" to allow for the use of an electric motor(s) as a prime mover.

### 1. SCOPE

This SAE Standard establishes the test procedures, performance requirements, and criteria necessary to evaluate minimum safety and reliability requirements of a children's snowmobile as identified in 1.2.

#### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set forth minimum safety and reliability criteria for use in the design of a children's snowmobile. Requirements not directly related to operator safety are not included, unless they are to delineate the intended purpose of the vehicle as distinct from a small-sized regular snowmobile.

#### 1.2 Definition of Children's Snowmobile

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. Refer to SAE J33.

### 2. REFERENCES

#### 2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

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### 2.1.1 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
SAE J44	Snowmobile Service Brake System
SAE J68	Tests for Snowmobile Switching Devices and Components
SAE J92	Snowmobile Throttle Control Systems
SAE J272	Vehicle Identification Number Systems
SAE J280	Snowmobile Headlamps
SAE J288	Snowmobile Fuel Tanks
SAE J292	Snowmobile and Snowmobile Cutter Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment
SAE J592	Sidemarkers Lamps for Use on Road Vehicles Less than 2032 mm in Overall Width
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

### 2.1.2 ANSI Accredited Publications

Copies of these documents are available online at <https://webstore.ansi.org/>.

ANSI B71.1	Consumer Turf Care Equipment – Walk-Behind Mowers and Ride-On Machines with Mowers – Safety Specifications
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### 2.2 Other Publications

CMVSS 115	Vehicle Identification Number
CMVSS 1201	Snowmobile Standards

## 3. GENERAL CRITERIA

### 3.1 Security Lock

A secure means of rendering the children's snowmobile inoperable so that it cannot be started (or operated) without the use of a removable key, or other such device, shall be provided.

### 3.2 Speed

Maximum speed shall be limited to 13 km/h when operating on a smooth, level, hard-packed snow surface.

### 3.3 Seating Capacity

Seating capacity shall be limited to one child.

### 3.4 Fuel Capacity

Fuel tank, if so equipped, shall be limited to 2.0 L capacity.

### 3.5 Steering Padding

The nominal central portion of the steering mechanism or handlebars between the throttle and brake control lever facing the operator's position shall be covered by impact-absorbing, non-rigid material at least 6 mm thick.

### 3.6 Controls

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

### 3.7 Ski Tips

The forward end or projection of the ski, commonly known as the ski tip, shall have no edge radius less than 3 mm in size.

### 3.8 Windshield

If the vehicle is equipped with a windshield, the windshield material shall conform to these requirements.

#### 3.8.1 Flexure Test

- a. Sample size is a 30 x 30 cm square, flat sheet.
- b. Expose the sample to a temperature of  $-29\text{ °C} \pm 1\text{ °C}$  for 1 hour minimum.
- c. Bend the sample 180 degrees around a 38 mm radius.

#### 3.8.2 Impact Test

- a. Use a 30 x 30 cm flat sheet sample, not the same sample used in the 3.8.1 flexure test.
- b. Expose the sample to a temperature of  $-29\text{ °C} \pm 1\text{ °C}$  for 1 hour minimum.
- c. Place the sample on flat, hard, non-resilient surface, such that it is uniformly supported from underneath.
- d. Impact with a 1.25 kg weight from a height of 90 cm. The contact surface of the weight shall be spherical with a radius of 25 mm maximum.

#### 3.8.3 Acceptance

Cracking of the samples is allowable, provided that no particles break loose from the material. Fracturing of the material is not acceptable.

#### 3.8.4 Edge Radius

Windshield edges which are exposed to the operator or bystanders must have a minimum edge radius of 3 mm.

### 3.9 Owner's/Operator's Manual

An owner's/operator's manual shall be supplied with each children's snowmobile.

### 3.10 Warning Labels

The following information shall be contained in the owner's/operator's manual or be displayed by a label or plaque permanently affixed to the vehicle:

NOTE 1: Under CMVSS 1201, the information of 3.10.1 through 3.10.5 shall be in both French and English.

NOTE 2: The information of 3.10.1 through 3.10.5 may be pictograms only.

Labels shall conform to the specification as stated in ANSI B71.1 Label Durability Requirement Section.

#### 3.10.1 Operation

This vehicle is intended for daylight use in restricted off-road areas, primarily on snow, by a child of not less than 6 years of age who is supervised by an adult. Use of this vehicle on public streets, roads, highways, or trails can be hazardous and is prohibited by law in most cases.

3.10.2 Do not start or operate this vehicle without guards and shields in position, or with hood not latched in place.

3.10.3 This vehicle is intended for one operator only, no passenger.

3.10.4 Verify proper operation of all controls before starting the engine/motor.

#### 3.10.5 Protective Clothing

When operating this vehicle, the operator should wear suitable protective clothing, including an approved safety helmet and visor or goggles.

### 3.11 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.

## 4. EQUIPMENT AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Speed Control

A device shall be provided to control the maximum speed of the vehicle, as indicated in 3.2.

### 4.2 Shields and Guards

Power-driven parts of the engine/motor, clutch, and drive system, with the exception of the vehicle track and sprocket systems adjacent to the track, shall be isolated by consoles, shields, or guards of sufficient size, shape, and configuration so as to prevent their physical contact with the occupant, bystanders, or any loose clothing worn by the occupant or bystanders during normal use of the vehicle with all consoles, shields, and guards in position and with the hood closed.

4.2.1 Shields and guards shall protect the occupant or bystanders in the case of failure of those parts of the drive train known as belts, gears, and chains should a part or parts be ejected from said components or in the case of breakage of such belts or chains as employed.

4.2.2 Shields and guards shall prevent inadvertent contact by the occupant with any exposed components at a temperature above 66 °C during normal operation of the vehicle with all consoles, guards, and shields in position and the engine/motor hood closed.

- 4.2.3 A device shall be incorporated such that upon opening of the hood, the engine/motor is stopped/de-energized. The engine/motor shall remain stopped/de-energized until the device is manually reinstated.
- 4.2.4 Centrifugal clutches, drive pulleys, driven pulleys, torque converters, or similar mechanisms shall withstand being spun about their axis of rotation at an rpm equal to 1.5X the maximum horsepower rpm of the engine/motor and times any effective drive ratio. This rpm shall be maintained for 2 minutes. Refer to SAE J1279.

#### 4.3 Lighting System Requirements

A children's snowmobile shall be equipped with the following:

- 4.3.1 At least one white headlight shall be positioned not less than 38 cm above the ground surface and shall provide a beam that complies with the minimum photometric candlepower requirements set out in Table 1 when tested in accordance with SAE J280.

**Table 1 - Minimum photometric candlepower requirements**

Test Point Position in Degrees	Minimum Photometric Candlepower Requirement
1/2 D-V	10000
1-1/2 D-V	5000
1-1/2 D-6L to 6R	1500
1-1/2 D-9L to 9R	1000
1-1/2 D-15L to 15R	150
3 D-V	1000
3 D-15L to 15R	100

- 4.3.2 Headlight(s) shall be on continuously when the engine/motor of the snowmobile is operating/energized.
- 4.3.3 One or two red identification lights shall be located not less than 15 cm above the ground surface on the rear centerline or symmetrically disposed about the rear centerline of the snowmobile, in accordance with SAE J592, and shall be on continuously when the engine/motor of the snowmobile is operating/energized. No stoplight shall be required.

#### 4.4 Reflectors

Reflectors shall conform to the requirements of SAE J292.

Two red reflectors, one on each side, any portion of which shall be within 40 cm of the rearmost point of the chassis, including the rear bumper, and not less than 20 cm above the ground.

Two reflectors of any color except red, one on each side, any portion of which shall be within 40 cm of the front surface of the front bumper and not less than 20 cm above the ground.