

# FAQs on Golf Buggies and Ride-on Lawnmowers

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**What is a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower?** Golf buggies and ride-on lawnmowers are four-wheel mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) which are generally designed and intended for off-road use e.g. golf courses, gardens etc.

## Can I drive a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower on the road?

Powered vehicles are generally designed and intended for off-road private use only. If used on a public road which includes footpath they are subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles e.g. registered, taxed, be subject to all regulations listed below. In addition the driver of the vehicle would have to hold the [appropriate driving licence](#) and be insured to drive that vehicle.

## What specific regulations apply to these vehicles on a public road?

They are subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles and so must comply with the following road traffic regulations\*:

- [S.I. 5 of 2003](#) - Road Traffic Construction and Use of Vehicles Regulations 2003
- [S.I. 190 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations 1963
- [S.I. 189 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles Regulations 1963

\*The above regulations are in original format and amendments can be viewed at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)

**I only use golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower on private property, does it need to be taxed, insured etc.?** No.

**How do I register a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower?** In order to register a golf buggy or a ride-on lawnmower it will require a certificate of conformity (CoC) from the manufacturer. For information relating to registration contact [Revenue](#).

**Do these vehicles require a roadworthiness test?** No. However under road traffic law it is the owner and driver's responsibility to ensure that if their vehicle is used in a public place it must be kept in a roadworthy condition at all times. All parts and equipment must be in good working order. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

**My golf buggy is for off-road use only, can I use the public road just to get from one green to the next?**

If used on a public road which includes footpath golf buggies are subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles. However enforcement of these regulations is a matter for An Garda Síochána so ultimately the discretion lies with them. The same applies to using a ride-on lawn mower to get from one private area to another via a public road which includes footpath. Contact your local Garda station for further clarification.

**An electric golf buggy is capable of a maximum design speed of 20 km/h, used in a security capacity on private property but occasionally crosses a public road. Does it require registration?**

Yes. If used on a public road which includes footpath it is subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles. Enforcement of these regulations is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

**Is it a requirement to wear a helmet when driving a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower?**

Currently it is not a legal requirement as the regulations regarding compulsory wearing of a safety helmet relate to two wheeled motor vehicles only. However we would strongly recommend that you always wear a helmet for your own safety.

**What laws apply to commercial grade zero mowers used along roads to cut roadside grass and other areas?**

This equipment is generally designed and intended for off-road private use only. However if used on a public road which includes footpath such equipment is subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles e.g. registered, taxed and comply with all regulations mentioned above.

**Can minors use golf buggies or ride-on lawnmowers?** Vehicles used in a public place require the driver to have a driving licence. The minimum age is 16 for vehicles 350 kg or less with a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h, otherwise the age limit is 17 years. Minors using golf buggies or ride-on lawnmowers on private property fall under the remit of the [Health and Safety Authority](#).

**Do I need a seat belt on a golf buggy?** No. But if one is fitted it should be worn.

**Can I carry a passenger in a golf buggy on the road?** No. Unless it has been originally manufactured to carry a passenger.

**Do I need a licence to drive a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower on the public road?** Yes.

**What licence is required to drive a golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower on the public road?** This will depend on the weight and power of the golf buggy or ride-on lawnmower. A breakdown of licence categories can be found [here](#). For further clarification contact our [Licensing Section](#) on 1890 41 61 41.

**What licence is required to transport a ride-on lawnmower in a trailer?**

- This will depend on the weight of the trailer. See licence categories [here](#).
- Your trailer must also be capable of carrying the ride-on lawnmower i.e. that it is not overloaded and that your vehicle has the towing capacity to pull the trailer's weight loaded. Overloading a trailer or exceeding your vehicle's towing capacity is illegal.
- For towing capacity consult the owner's manual or contact original manufacturer. You may also wish to refer to our [FAQ](#) on Towing Capacity.