

# FAQs on Motorbikes or Motorcycles

RSA

**What category is my motorbike?** Mopeds and motorbikes as well as all-terrain vehicles or quads and other small 3 or 4 wheeled vehicles are classed as L category vehicles. Motorbikes are further divided into two groups e.g. with and without side-cars.

Category L	Vehicle Description
L1e	Light two-wheel powered vehicle
L2e	Three-wheeled Moped
L3e	Two-wheeled Motorcycle
L4e	Two-wheeled Motorcycle with sidecar
L5e	Powered Tricycle
L6e	Light Quadricycle
L7e	Heavy Quadricycle

**Do motorbikes require roadworthiness testing?** No. However under road traffic legislation it is the owner's and rider's responsibility to ensure that their motorbike is maintained in a roadworthy condition at all times when used in a public place.

**Is it compulsory for drivers and passengers to wear helmets?** Yes. Properly fitted crash helmets are required by law for both the driver and passenger of two wheeled motorcycles under [S.I. No. 360 of 1978](#). You do not have to wear personal protection equipment (PPE) such as a motorcycle jacket, trousers, gloves and boots etc. however we recommend that both rider and passenger would do so for their own safety.

**Can I carry a pillion passenger on a motorbike?** Yes. But only if you have a full licence, your motorcycle is designed to carry a pillion passenger and your insurance policy covers you to do so. See [The Rules of the Road](#).

**Can I fit a sidecar onto a motorbike?** Yes. However, they must be properly constructed, safely fitted to the *left* side of the motorcycle and have proper lighting. You should contact the original manufacturer for more guidance.

**Can children be carried on a motorbike or in a sidecar?** There is no law which specifically states that a child cannot be carried on a motorbike or in a sidecar however we would strongly advise against this on safety grounds. See [Rules of the Road](#).

**What can my motorcycle tow?** You will need to refer to your owner's manual or contact the original manufacturer.

**Can a motorbike tow a broken down motorbike?** Yes, but only to the nearest place of safety or repair.

**Can I tow a trailer on motorcycle?** Yes, but not with any passenger inside.

The rules for towing are as follows:

- the overall width of the trailer cannot be more than 1 m.
- the distance between the rear axle of the motorbike and the end of the trailer must not be more than 2.5 m
- the trailer weight is not more than the towing capacity of the motorbike or 150 kg - whichever is less.

## **Is there any law regarding the use of dash cameras and placement on motorbike helmets?**

In terms of retrofitting systems you must comply with [S.I. No. 322 of 1993](#) on standards and policy surrounding the sale of protective goods and [S.I. No. 360 of 1978](#) on use of crash helmets.

There are some safety aspects to be considered if attaching a camera to a motorcycle helmet i.e. will it affect the structure or integrity of the helmet in the unfortunate event of a collision? We advise you to contact the motorbike helmet manufacturer or supplier regarding the fitment of such device to ensure that it does not contribute or cause injury to the wearer.

In relation to data protection of the public see Data Protection Commissioner website for guidance for drivers on use of dash cams [here](#) or email them at [info@dataprotection.ie](mailto:info@dataprotection.ie).

## **Is it legal to use electric unicycles on footpaths or public roads?**

Regardless of the type of vehicle if it can operate on mechanical or electrical power alone – even if you initially have to pedal, push or scoot it to get it going – then it is considered to be a mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV). Under Road Traffic Regulations *'if an MPV is used in a public place it is subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles, therefore, it must be roadworthy, registered, taxed and insured. The driver of the vehicle must hold the appropriate driving licence and is obliged to wear a crash helmet'*.

**Do I have to register my motorbike?** Yes. Under law all mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) need to be registered, taxed and insured. For registration of vehicles you will need to contact [Revenue](#).

## **Can I register an electric moped here that has EU type approval from Italy?**

Under EU Regulation No. 168 of 2013 if it has EU type approval it will have an EC Certificate of Conformity (CoC) and therefore can be registered here. Further information on registration of vehicles in Ireland you can contact [Revenue](#).

## **I imported a motorbike and it has no CoC\*. What should I do?**

Contact the manufacturer. If no certificate of conformity exists for this motorbike it may be for off-road use only.

*\*A Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is proof that the motorbike meets with all the necessary safety and quality standards. A motorbike cannot be registered in Ireland without a CoC.*

**What documents are required when importing a motorbike?** You will need to contact [Revenue](#).

**Where do I apply for an end of series (EOS) derogation for motorbikes?** See our [FAQ Note on EOS](#) which provides all necessary details.

**What is the minimum age to obtain a motorbike licence?** The minimum age to drive a motorbike is 16 years.

**What is the correct format, dimensions etc. for motorbike registration plates?** For the specific format and dimensions contact [Revenue](#).

## **Why are number plates not displayed on the front of motorbikes?**

Due to the design of motorbikes there is not enough space for number plates to be fitted to the front. In addition, any protrusion to the front of a vehicle would present a risk to the rider and other vulnerable road users e.g. pedestrians, cyclists etc. in the event of a collision.

## **Is there any regulation prohibiting hands-free calling on motorcycles?**

It is not illegal, but we strongly advise *never* use a hands-free or blue tooth device when driving as it will distract you and it is not safe. Road Traffic Act 2006 states; *'a person shall not while driving a mechanically propelled vehicle in a public place hold a mobile phone'*.

**What is the minimum tread depth for motorbike tyres?** The minimum limit is 1 mm, however we would always recommend that tyres are changed before they reach their minimum tread depth.

## Should tread depth be 1mm in the centre or on the sides of a tyre?

The grooves of the tread pattern of a motorcycle tyre must have a depth of at least 1mm throughout the entire treaded area of the tyre.

**Is it illegal to remove baffles from a motorcycle?** Yes. Under [S.I. No. 190 of 1963](#) of the Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicle regulations 1963 as amended require vehicles to be fitted with a silencer or other device suitable for reducing to a reasonable level noise caused by the escape of exhaust gases from the engine and they prohibit use of a vehicle that causes any excessive noise in a public place. Should you wish to report an incident of excessive noise contact the Gardaí.

## Can I fit LED brake lights, tail lights and indicators with LED headlights and high beams on a motorcycle?

Consult your vehicle manufacturer to make sure these headlights are compatible with the vehicle. When purchasing headlights or other lighting units ensure they are type approved to a recognised ECE regulation.

## Can front indicators be used as running lights on a motorbike i.e. each front indicator has a dual 5/12-watt filament bulb where the 5w always remains on but when an indicator is activated the 21w making it flash brighter?

- Under Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles Regulations, it prescribes the lamps and reflectors with which vehicles are required to be fitted while being used in public places, and the circumstances and the manner in which such lamps are to be used. They also require lamps that show a light to the front of a vehicle to be fitted and constructed so that they will not dazzle or mislead other traffic when lit.
- Article 41 of this regulation states that *'a vehicle shall not be equipped with lighting which when lit shows any light to the front of the vehicle except a white or yellow light with an exception being provided from compliance with this requirement for direction indicators.*
- Furthermore, Article 48 states that *'no lamp which, when lit, is capable of misleading other traffic, shall be fitted to a vehicle'.*