

# FAQs on Rickshaws, Moto-taxis and Tuk-tuks

RSA

Types of Rickshaws, Tuk-tuks or Moto-taxis	Definition
Pulled rickshaw	A type of human-powered transport where a person pulls a two-wheeled cart which seats up to two people.
Cycle rickshaw or pedicab	A type of human-powered transport where a person on a bicycle pulls a two-wheeled cart which seats up to two people.
Auto rickshaw, tuk-tuk or moto-taxi	A motorised version of the original pulled and cycle rickshaws commonly used as vehicles for hire.
Electric rickshaw, e-rickshaw or e-tuk-tuk	A three-wheeled vehicle pulled by an electric motor 650-1400 w

## What are the laws on using rickshaws and tuk-tuks in Ireland?

- If a rickshaw or tuk-tuk is fitted with a small engine or electric motor of any kind including e-bike it is essentially considered to be a mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV)
- Under road traffic law if an MPV is used in a public place it is subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles i.e. it must be roadworthy, registered, taxed and comply with all regulations mentioned below.
- The driver must have appropriate driving licence and insurance to drive that vehicle.

## What laws apply to MPVs? Regulations\* applying to MPVs are:

- [S.I. No.5 of 2003](#) - Road Traffic Construction and Use of Vehicles Regulations
- [S.I. No. 190 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations
- [S.I. No. 189 of 1963](#) - Road Traffic Lighting of Vehicles

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

### **What is the definition of ‘mechanically propelled vehicle’ (MPV)?**

Under the Road Traffic Act 1961 it is defined as ‘a vehicle intended or adapted for propulsion by mechanical means, including:

(a) a bicycle or tricycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power, whether or not the attachment is being used,

(b) a vehicle the means of propulsion of which is electrical or partly electrical and partly mechanical, but not including a tramcar or other vehicle running on permanent rails’

### **Are motorised or non-motorised rickshaws banned from pedestrianised areas?**

Yes. Pedestrianised areas are for pedestrians *only* so no bicycles are allowed unless a designated cycle lane exists. The enforcement of road traffic law is the responsibility of An Garda Síochána.

**Are rickshaws or tuk-tuks allowed on footpaths?** No. It is illegal to use rickshaws or tuk tuks on footpaths. For further information contact the [Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport](#).

### **What driving licence is required to operate a motorised rickshaw?**

This will depend on the weight and power of the vehicle. A breakdown of licence categories can be found [here](#). If you require further clarification contact our [Licensing Section](#) on 1890 41 61 41 or (096)25000

### **Do rickshaws, tuk-tuks or bike taxis require a roadworthiness test?**

No. There is currently no legal requirement to test these vehicles. However, under road traffic law vehicle owners and drivers are legally required to maintain their vehicle in a roadworthy and safe condition at all times when used in a public place. All parts and equipment must be in good and efficient working order.

**Why is there no NCT for rickshaws or tuk-tuks?** There is currently no European or national obligation to test two and three wheeled vehicles.

**Do rickshaws or tuk-tuks require insurance?** You will need to contact your insurance provider or [Insurance Ireland](#).

**Can I import a tuk-tuk or motorised rickshaw into Ireland?** [Revenue](#) is responsible for the importation of vehicles into Ireland. They will not register a vehicle here unless it has a certificate of conformity (CoC).

**What is a CoC and where can I get one to register a rickshaw?** It is a certificate provided by the original manufacturer which proves that the vehicle is approved to a European safety and quality standard. If the manufacturer cannot supply a CoC this means your rickshaw or tuk-tuk was not designed or intended for use on a public road and must only be used on private property.

**If my rickshaw is just a regular bicycle with no motor does it require tax, insured etc.?** No. These are considered to be ordinary bicycles. However you are still legally required to have the necessary lights, brakes, reflectors, bell etc. when it's being used in a public place. Refer to the [Rules of the Road](#) for more information on cycling safety. You can also view our Cycling Safety webpage [here](#).