

RSA



Initial Basic Training (IBT) for Motorcyclists

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

What is Initial Basic Training?

Initial Basic Training (IBT) is a training course for learner riders. It gives new riders strong training foundations on which they can build their knowledge and skills. It's a 16–18 hour training course broken down into separate modules covering a mixture of theory and practical riding skills. Instructors believe that most learners will benefit from doing their IBT modules reasonably close together.

Why do I need to do IBT?

IBT courses are there to save lives by maximising the safety of inexperienced riders. Unfortunately, many motorcyclists are killed on Irish roads each year. Irrespective of who is at fault, motorcyclists will more than likely suffer worst in a collision with another vehicle.

NOTE: *your IBT instructor will provide you with a logbook on your first day of the course. It's an important document, so please keep it safe and bring it to every IBT session.*

What happens when I have finished the IBT course?

On completion, your instructor will record the details in your logbook and issue you with a certificate of satisfactory completion. It is a valuable document so make sure to note its serial number and the date it was issued.

Keep your certificate together with your learner permit whenever you are riding on a public road or in a public place. You may be asked to produce one or both by a member of An Garda Síochána or your driver tester on the day of your practical driving test.

Can my certificate go out of date?

Yes. Your certificate of satisfactory completion ceases to be valid after two years from the date of issue. Within the valid period, the holder must either (a) submit the certificate to the licensing authority with an application for a full driving licence, under progressive access rules for the relevant licence category, or (b) apply for a driving test for the relevant licence category. Any subsequent such application must be accompanied by a valid certificate.

After the expiry of the certificate, a rider must successfully complete additional IBT in order to obtain a further certificate.

What if I lose my certificate?

If you lose your certificate you can get a duplicate from us. IBT instructors are not allowed to issue duplicate certificates. You will need to fill in a declaration form (which is available on our website) at your local garda station and then send it with the €10 fee to:

**Driver Education Section, Road Safety Authority,
Primrose Hill, Ballina, Co Mayo**

Does a certificate permit me to ride all types of motorcycle?

No. A certificate of satisfactory completion only allows you to ride a motorcycle in the category specified. However, progress from category to category will require further training and is subject to two specific access routes.

Direct Access

This is the option for anyone who wishes to go directly to category (AM, A1, A2 and A) subject to undertaking the required IBT and being the appropriate age.

Progressive Access

This is the option for anyone who wishes to obtain a licence for a higher powered motorcycle, e.g. moving up from category A1 to A2, or A2 to A. It is available to those who have held a full licence in the immediate lower category for at least two years. This access recognises a motorcyclist's prior training and experience, and allows progress without needing to retake a driving test (provided the necessary training has been done).

How much does IBT cost?

Each instructor sets their own fees. We cannot dictate the price for IBT courses but as there are plenty of IBT instructors around the country, there should be keen competition with prices varying. It's worth phoning around before booking your IBT course.

Do I have to supply my own motorcycle?

Your instructor will let you know what you need to bring along to your IBT session. Some instructors supply bikes, personal protective equipment (PPE) and insurance cover. Others expect you to supply your own. You need to check this before you book your training.

More information can be found on our website at www.rsa.ie

What categories of motorcycle may I be permitted to ride?

There are four categories of motorcycle you are permitted to ride on completion of your IBT course.

AM Two-wheeled mechanically propelled vehicle, not capable of being manually propelled. The machine must have a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc in the case of an internal combustion engine, or a maximum continuous rated power of no more than 4 kW in the case of an electric motor. The vehicle must have a design speed of at least 25 km/h but not more than 45 km/h.

A1 A motorcycle without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 115 cc and not exceeding 125 cc, and capable of a speed of at least 90 km/h, with an engine power not exceeding 11 kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1 kW/kg. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.08 kW/kg.

A2 A motorcycle without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 395 cc, and an engine power of at least 20 kW, but not exceeding 35 kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2 kW/kg, and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.15 kW/kg.

A A motorcycle without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 595 cc, an unladen mass of more than 175 kg and an engine power of at least 50 kW. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.25 kW/kg.

So, if I want to ride a bigger motorcycle, do I need to re-do IBT?

If you hold a full licence in category (A1 or A2) and have not previously completed any IBT but now want to ride a bigger motorcycle, you must now complete the full IBT course. If you have previously completed IBT, then you may be able to avail of the progression module if you want to change from a smaller category motorcycle to a bigger category motorcycle.

Progressive Access:

- It is only possible to use the progressive access route once between categories.
- There is no progression between AM and A1.
- There is no progression from an automatic to a manual motorcycle.
- There is progression from a lower automatic to a higher automatic.
- If IBT has already been completed on an automatic motorcycle and you now wish to ride a manual motorcycle in a higher category, then:
 - when moving from category A2 to category A you will require a progression module which covers module 5 on a manual. You will be required to complete an IBT progression module 5 on a category A manual motorcycle and sit a driving test on a manual motorcycle
- It is not possible to move from a full automatic licence (lower category) to a full manual licence (higher category) by means of progressive access. A manual licence can only be obtained by undertaking a practical driving test.

Where can I get information on IBT instructors?

Go to rsa.ie for a register of approved IBT instructors and IBT centres in your area. Your motorcycle dealer should also be able to advise you about IBT.

Is there an exam at the end?

There is no test at the end of each IBT module. However, you will need to demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge and competency before moving on to the next module. Your instructor will give you feedback on your progress as you move through the modules.

Do I need to take a practical driving test?

If you have already passed your practical driving test in one motorcycle licence category, you may be able to progress on to a higher category of licence by either taking a practical driving test or undergoing module 5 on the larger motorcycle and provided all necessary IBT is in place. Be guided by your IBT instructor as to when you should apply for your practical

driving test. IBT is just the beginning of your training and you may need to get more experience by practising what you have learnt in IBT, before you take your test.

If IBT has already been completed on an automatic motorcycle and you wish to ride a manual motorcycle in the same licence category, then you will not be required to undertake any further IBT modules. You will only be required to undertake and pass a driving test.

Can my learner permit go out of date?

Yes. If your learner permit has lapsed for five or more years you will have to:

- resit the theory test
- take out a learner permit
- retake IBT

Can I change to a different IBT instructor?

Yes. You can move from one IBT instructor to another. However, you can only carry forward credit for modules that were completed with your previous instructor. At the end of each module, your instructor will certify that you have successfully completed the module by recording the details in the relevant section of your logbook. Bring your logbook to every training session so it can be updated.

What if I disagree with my instructor?

Your IBT instructor may advise you that you have not yet successfully completed all of the requirements for a particular module. If you wish to have an independent assessment carried out, you may apply to us. We will arrange to carry out a modular assessment. The fee for this is currently €70. If all the necessary requirements are met, we may certify the module as complete.

If I hold a category A learner permit which was issued before 6 December 2010 and now want to do a category A1 or A2 driving test, do I need to do IBT?

No. The learner permit for licence category A exempts you, as you held it before 6 December 2010 (when IBT was launched).

What if I have additional needs?

We are conscious that persons with additional needs may need extra support. We are in touch with IBT instructors to raise awareness of issues for those with additional needs.

More information can be found on our website at www.rsa.ie