

## GUIDE TO TRAINING, TESTING & LICENSING FOR MOTORCYCLISTS.

The following information has been pulled together from various sources, as a guide for new motorcyclists. Whilst it is as accurate as we have been able to make it, you should not rely on it and make your own enquiries of the various agencies. For up to the minute information use the Driving Standards Agency ([www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk)). E.A.O.E.

### LICENCES

Everyone who wishes to ride a moped, scooter, motorcycle or motorcycle combination must have the appropriate category of licence. You may ride as a learner by holding a Provisional Licence and complying with certain conditions or you may ride as a Full Licence holder.

### CATEGORIES OF TRAINING & TESTING

Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) – Usually a one day course with a private instructor – we have a list of local ones.

Theory – A government test based on the Highway Code using a multi choice format on a computer.

Practical – A government on road riding test observed by an examiner following and communicating by radio.

In order to validate a Provisional Licence in any of the following categories, it is necessary to successfully complete CBT. (Some car drivers may be exempt for riding mopeds – see below)

In order to gain a Full licence in any of the following categories, it is necessary to pass the three stages of training and testing. Some drivers may be exempt from certain stages depending on the category of licence they hold and when obtained. You will need to check with the DSA for more information.

### CATEGORIES OF MACHINES

Mopeds

Learner Motorcycles

33 BHP Motorcycles

Larger Motorcycles

Motorcycle Combinations (Motorcycle & Sidecar)

### CATEGORIES OF LICENCE

P

A1

A

A

A

### MOPEDS

A moped is a motorcycle that has the following features:

- maximum design speed not exceeding 50 kilometres per hour (km/h) (about 31 miles per hour (mph))
- an engine capacity no greater than 50 cc
- it can be of a scooter design or a motorcycle design
- it can be moved by pedals, if the moped was first used before 1 August 1977

To ride one you need a Licence with Category P. If you haven't passed any testing, you can only hold a provisional moped licence. In any event you must be at least 16 years old. It entitles you to ride a moped on the road as a learner with L-plates (D-plates in Wales) but you must not carry a pillion passenger or go on a motorway. Your provisional licence is only valid when you have the DL 196 certificate issued on completion of compulsory basic training (CBT) by an approved training body (ATB).

A CBT certificate obtained on a moped is also valid for motorcycles once the rider has reached the age of 17 years and has the necessary licence category.

If you want to ride a moped on the road without displaying L-plates you must also take and pass a theory and practical driving test.

### If you have a Car Licence

If you obtained your full car licence (category B) before 1 February 2001 you are automatically entitled to ride a moped without L-plates (D-plates in Wales).

If you obtained a full car licence (category B) after 1 February 2001 you must first complete a CBT course and obtain a DL 196 certificate to validate your entitlement.

### LEARNER LEGAL MOTORCYCLES

A learner legal motorcyclist is one that has the following features

- An engine cubic capacity not exceeding 125cc

- A power output not exceeding 11kW (14.6bhp)
- It can be of a scooter or a motorcycle design

To ride one you need a licence with Category A1. If you haven't passed the testing, you can only hold a provisional A1 licence. In any event you must be at least 17 years old.

Your provisional licence is only valid when you have the DL 196 certificate issued on completion of compulsory basic training (CBT) by an approved training body (ATB).

A CBT certificate obtained on a moped is also valid for motorcycles once the rider has reached the age of 17 years and has the necessary licence.

If you want to ride a Learner Legal Motorcycle on the road without displaying L-plates you must also take and pass a theory and practical driving test.

### 33 BHP MOTORCYCLES

A 33 BHP motorcycle is one that has the following features

- A power output not exceeding 25kW
- A power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.16kW/kg
- It can also be of a scooter or motorcycle design.

To ride one you must be at least 17 years of age and have passed the testing to gain a Category A licence using a 33 BHP motorcycle. (See Direct Access below)

### LARGER MOTORCYCLES

To ride larger than 33 BHP motorcycles you must

- be at least 21 years of age
- wait two years after gaining your Category A licence using a 25kW (33 BHP) motorcycle.
- or take the Direct Access or Accelerated Access route. (see below)
- Be at least 21 years old and have already have a Category A licence.

### Direct access

After taking CBT and the theory test, the practical test may be taken on a motorcycle with a power output of at least 35kW (25kW for persons under 21). A pass allows you to ride any size of bike (unless you are under 21). All or part of the CBT course may be taken on either a learner bike or a large bike. You may practice for the practical test on bikes larger than the learner bike specification provided:

- you are accompanied at all times by an approved instructor on another bike and in radio contact
- you wear fluorescent or reflective clothing and follow all other provisional licence restrictions

### Accelerated access

Riders who reach the age of 21, while still within the two year period where they are restricted to maximum 25 kW machines, but who wish to ride larger bikes need to pass a further test on a motorcycle of at least 35 kW. They may practice on bikes over 25 kW under the same practice conditions for direct access riders. You will revert to learner status while practicing (on a motorcycle greater than 25 kW) although test failure will not affect your existing licence.

### MOTORCYCLE COMBINATIONS (SIDECARS)

The minimum age for driving a motorcycle combination is 21. Learners who wish to ride with a sidecar can practice on a combination with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.16 kW/kg. On obtaining a Category A licence, you will be restricted to a combination with the same power/weight ratio for two years. At age 21 learners may, only within direct or accelerated access, practice on a larger combination, but the test must be taken on a solo bike (although physically disabled riders can use a combination).