

Motorcycle safety initiatives

Key rules for motorcycle riders

1. **Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme**
2. **Pillion passenger restrictions for learner riders**
3. **Requirements to display a P Plate**

1. Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme

A Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAM Scheme) is now operating in Queensland. Under the scheme, class RE licence holders are only able to ride motorcycles that are LAM Scheme approved.

Learner riders (holders of a Queensland class RE learner licence) are also only able to ride motorcycles that are LAM Scheme approved.

Why has the type of motorcycle that a class RE licence holder is authorised to ride changed?

A 250 mL limitation was introduced in Queensland when a small capacity engine generally related to the performance of the motorcycle. Due to advancements in technology, this is no longer the case and a number of modern 250 mL motorcycles have performance capabilities that are not suitable for inexperienced riders. The LAM Scheme will replace the current 250 mL engine capacity limit applied to class RE licence holders.

The introduction of the LAM Scheme provides consistency between Queensland and other Australian states.

What is a class RE motorcycle?

A class RE motorcycle is a learner approved motorcycle, including a moped.

What is a learner approved motorcycle?

A learner approved motorcycle is a production motorcycle that is fitted with an electric motor, or has an internal combustion engine with an engine capacity of not more than 660mL and

- has a power to weight ratio of not more than 150kW per tonne
- that has not been modified other than for an allowable modification
- that is stated to be a learner approved motorcycle in a list kept by the chief executive and published on the department's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

What is the power to weight ratio of a motorcycle?

The power to weight ratio is obtained by dividing the maximum engine power by the sum of the tare mass of the motorcycle plus 90 kg and multiplying the answer by 1000 expressed as kilowatts per tonne.

How is the power to weight ratio of a motorcycle worked out?

The motorcycle's maximum engine power in kilowatts is divided by the prescribed weight of the motorcycle then multiplied by 1000 for conversion to kilowatts per tonne. The prescribed weight of the motorcycle means the tare mass, in kilograms, of the motorcycle plus 90 kg, that is:

$$\frac{\text{Maximum Engine Power (kW)}}{\text{Prescribed Weight (kg)}} \times 1000 = \text{Kilowatts per tonne (kW/t)}$$

Example:

The power to weight ratio of a motorcycle that has a maximum engine power of 54 kW and a tare mass of 360 kg, is calculated by dividing 54 kW by the sum of 360 kg and 90 kg (that is, 450 kg) and multiplying the product of the division by 1000. In this example, the power to weight ratio is 120 kW/t.

$$\frac{54 \text{ kW}}{(360 \text{ kg} + 90 \text{ kg})} \times 1000 = 120 \text{ kW/t}$$

What is a production motorcycle?

A production motorcycle is a motorcycle that is manufactured and marketed in volume for normal road use and conforms with the requirements that apply to the motorcycle under vehicle law.

A production motorcycle may be modified and still be considered a learner approved motorcycle, provided the modification is an allowable modification.

What is an allowable modification?

An allowable modification is a modification that is approved under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management — Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*.

The modification may either be to the seating capacity of the motorcycle or a modification designed to enable a person with a physical impairment to ride the motorcycle. However, it does not include a modification that increases the maximum engine power of the motorcycle.

How is a learner approved motorcycle identified?

The department's website will list those motorcycles that are learner approved motorcycles.

Whilst most motorcycles with an engine capacity of less than 250 mL will be considered a learner approved motorcycle, those that have a power to weight ratio of more than 150 kW per tonne are excluded. There will be an additional list that will help identify those motorcycles that are not a learner approved motorcycle.

The vehicle registration label will help identify the motorcycle as being a learner approved motorcycle with the exception of a production motorcycle that is conditionally registered.

Which motorcycles are prescribed motorcycles?

The following six models of motorcycles, although 250 mL or under, have been identified as a prescribed motorcycle, and are not learner approved motorcycles:

- Aprilia RS250
- Honda NSR250
- Kawasaki KR250 (KR-1 model)
- Kawasaki KR250 (KR1s model)
- Suzuki RGV250
- Yamaha TZR250

Why have these prescribed motorcycles been excluded from the learner approved motorcycle list?

These motorcycles are capable of high speed and rapid acceleration and are regarded as being unsuitable for inexperienced riders due to their sports style power delivery, handling and riding position.

What class of licence will I need to ride a prescribed motorcycle?

You need a class R licence to ride a prescribed motorcycle.

What class of licence do I need to ride a conditionally registered motorcycle that is not a production motorcycle?

You need a class R licence to ride a conditionally registered motorcycle that is not a production motorcycle.

Are there any changes to the types of motorcycles I can ride under a class R licence?

No. You can still ride a motorcycle of any engine capacity including a learner approved motorcycle and a moped.

When can I learn to ride a class R motorcycle?

You may learn to ride a class R motorcycle after you have held a class RE motorcycle licence (excluding a learner licence) for at least one year.

What will happen if I am found riding a class R motorcycle unaccompanied and I only hold a class RE licence?

You may receive an infringement notice or be required to appear in a court for unlicensed driving. If you are convicted of unlicensed driving the court may impose a fine of up to \$4000.

Is a moped a learner approved motorcycle?

Yes.

2. Pillion passenger restrictions for learner riders

Am I able to carry a supervisor as a pillion passenger on my motorcycle when learning to ride?

No. You are not able to carry a supervisor as a pillion passenger on your motorcycle while you are learning to ride the motorcycle.

How can I learn to ride a motorcycle if I can not carry my supervisor as a pillion passenger?

As a learner you are still required to be supervised by an appropriately licensed person when riding a motorcycle. You may only carry a supervisor seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle. If the motorcycle does not have a sidecar, the supervisor may follow you at a safe distance on another motorcycle or in another motor vehicle.

When will I be able to carry a passenger as a pillion on my motorcycle?

You are only allowed to carry a passenger on a motorcycle if you hold a provisional or open licence that authorises you to ride that class of vehicle **and** you have held that class of licence for at least one year.

A passenger on a motorcycle includes a pillion passenger and a person seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

However, while learning to ride you may carry a supervisor seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

Why has this new passenger restriction for learner riders been introduced?

Evidence suggests carrying passengers increases the risk to the rider and the passenger and can lead to more severe injuries in the event of a crash.

Carrying a pillion passenger requires more advanced riding skills to accommodate the passenger's impact on the balance and stability of the motorcycle. This new restriction will remove the added burden on learner riders to allow them to concentrate on developing basic on-road riding skills.

3. Requirement to display a P Plate

Am I required to display a 'P' plate on a motorcycle?

Yes, you are required to display a 'P' plate on a motorcycle if you hold a class RE or R motorcycle P1 or P2 type licence.

The requirement to display a 'P' plate on a motorcycle (including mopeds) will continue until you upgrade to an open type licence.

If you are the holder of an open driver licence and obtain an RE or R class motorcycle licence, you will not be required to display a 'P' plate.

What colour 'P' plate will I be required to display when riding my motorcycle?

Similar to the requirements to displaying 'P' plates on cars, P1 licence holders will be required to display a red 'P' Plate and P2 licence holders must display a green 'P' Plate on the rear of the motorcycle, or on the back of a vest worn by the rider.

Will I need to display a 'P' plate on the front and rear of my motorcycle?

No. Similar to the current requirements for display of an 'L' plate on a motorcycle, you will only need to display a 'P' plate on the rear of the motorcycle.

Where can I find more information?

For a full list of Learner Approved Motorcycles, information regarding the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme, how to apply for a class RE or R licence, and other motorcycle rules visit www.motorcyclesafety.qld.gov.au or call 13 23 80*.

*Higher rates apply from mobile phones and payphones. If calling outside of Queensland, STD rates will apply. Operates Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm EST (GMT +10) excluding public holidays.