

FACT SHEET

Mopeds, Motor-Driven Cycles and Motorcycles

PURPOSE

This fact sheet provides the most accurate and up-to-date information necessary to operate and register a moped, motor-driven cycle or motorcycle in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Specific definitions and criteria are listed below to assist in determining the proper procedures for titling and registering the particular vehicle in question. Please note that a motor-driven cycle must exhibit a motorcycle plate when driven.

Owners of these types of vehicles are required to acknowledge the Financial Responsibility Statement and provide insurance information. PennDOT will be unable to renew or transfer a registration if the self-certification of financial responsibility is not completed on the registration application, as follows:

1. Name of the insurance company insuring the vehicle.
2. The policy number, effective date and expiration date of the insurance policy.

A motorized scooter is a 2-wheeled vehicle powered by an engine or an electric motor and does not have a seat or saddle for the driver. These vehicles are not exempt from titling and registration requirements as set forth by PennDOT and would be required to pass equipment standards and inspection requirements. However, these vehicles do not comply with the equipment standards and inspection requirements for motor vehicles, and cannot be titled or registered within the commonwealth. In addition, these vehicles cannot be operated on Pennsylvania roadways or sidewalks.

Also, PennDOT does not title or register all-terrain vehicles (ATV). Application for title and registration for ATV-type vehicles must be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Snowmobile and ATV Licensing Unit, P.O. Box 8553, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8553. ATVs may not be reconstructed for highway use and may only be used off road. ATVs used exclusively for farm purposes are not titled or registered by DCNR or PennDOT. A multi-purpose agricultural vehicle, which is also an ATV, is exempt from registration.

MOPED

DEFINITION: A motor-driven cycle equipped with operable pedals, a motor rated no more than 1.5 brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission, and a maximum design speed of no more than 25 miles per hour, or an electric motor-driven cycle equipped with operable pedals and powered by an electric battery or battery pack powered electric motor with a max design speed of no more than 25 mph.

CRITERIA:

1. Engine may not exceed 50 cubic centimeters.
2. Engine may not exceed 1.5 brake horsepower rating.
3. Operable pedals required.
4. Automatic transmission required.
5. Design speed may not be more than 25 miles per hour.
6. Does not require inspection.

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7. Moped registration plate issued.
8. Fees: For a complete listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees,"](#) found on our website at www.pa.gov/dmv.
9. No helmet or eye protection is required for the driver.
10. Class C, Non-Commercial Driver's License required.

NOTE: A pedalcycle with an electric assist is defined as a vehicle weighing not more than 100 pounds with two or three wheels more than 11 inches in diameter, manufactured or assembled with an electric motor system rated at not more than 750 watts, and equipped with operable pedals and capable of a speed not more than 20 miles per hour on a level surface when powered by the motor source only. The term does not include a device specifically designed for use by persons with disabilities.

Pedalcycles with electric assist are considered a bicycle and do not require titling, registration or insurance. The operator does not require a driver's license but must be at least 16 years of age.

MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE

DEFINITION: A motorcycle, including a motor scooter, with a motor which does not to exceed 5 brake horsepower.

CRITERIA:

1. Horsepower is not more than 5 brake horsepower.
2. Inspection required.
3. Motorcycle registration plate issued.
4. Fees: For a complete listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees,"](#) found on our website at www.pa.gov/dmv.
5. Individuals who meet the following criteria are able to choose whether to wear a motorcycle helmet:
 - ❖ The operator or any occupant of a 3-wheeled motorcycle equipped with an enclosed cab.
 - ❖ A person 21 years of age or older who has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years.
 - ❖ A person 21 years of age or older who has completed a motorcycle rider safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.
 - ❖ The passenger of a person who is exempt, if the passenger is 21 years of age or older.
6. Eye protection required.
7. Class M or a Class M with an "8" restriction required on driver's license. **NOTE:** An "8" restriction prohibits the driver from operating a motor-driven cycle with an engine that is capable of producing more than 5 brake horsepower.

NOTE: The holder of a Class C Driver's License is authorized to drive a motor-driven cycle, which has an automatic transmission and a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters.

MOTORCYCLE

DEFINITION: A motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and (1) designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, or (2) designed to travel on two wheels in contact with the ground which is modified by the addition of two stabilizing wheels on the rear of the motor vehicle.

CRITERIA:

1. Inspection required.
2. Motorcycle registration plate issued.

3. Individuals who meet the following criteria are able to choose whether to wear a motorcycle helmet:
 - ❖ The operator or any occupant of a 3-wheeled motorcycle equipped with an enclosed cab.
 - ❖ A person 21 years of age or older who has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years.
 - ❖ A person 21 years of age or older who has completed a motorcycle rider safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.
 - ❖ The passenger of a person who is exempt, if the passenger is 21 years of age or older.
4. Eye protection required.
5. Fees: For a complete listing of motor vehicle fees, refer to [Form MV-70S, "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees,"](#) found on our website at www.pa.gov/dmv.
6. Class M or a Class M with a "9" restriction required on driver's license. **NOTE:** A "9" restriction prohibits the driver from operating a 2-wheeled motorcycle.

NOTE: Side-cars are not titled or registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

AUTOCYCLE

An Autocycle is a three-wheeled motorcycle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride.

NOTE: These vehicles typically have bucket seats, seat belts, a steering wheel, and gas and brake pedals similar to a car.

- ❖ Registered as a motorcycle.
- ❖ Unlike a traditional motorcycle, the operator of an Autocycle only needs a driver's license (Class C), not a motorcycle license (Class M).
- ❖ Autocycles may not be used to take a Class C driver's skills test.
- ❖ Autocycles may not be used to take a Class M driver's skills test.
- ❖ All other motorcycle laws and regulations apply.

Please Note: Authorized agents are under contract to PennDOT and may charge a market driven service (delivery) fee; these are in addition to any PennDOT statutory fees for temporary, or in some cases, permanent motor vehicle registration plates and cards or other related products and services offered by the agent. The agent's service (delivery) fees are market driven, and vary by agent. To compare service (delivery) fees, you are encouraged to contact the authorized agents in your area for the applicable service (delivery) fees charged.