

New and Emerging Vehicles





E-bikes, Mopeds and Motor Scooters



This document is intended for information purposes only. While the Ministry of Transportation does its best to ensure that the information provided is current, the Ontario Highway Traffic Act (HTA), as the official version of the law, should be relied on to ensure accuracy.

Link to the HTA: e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h08_e.htm

Common name	E-bike and E-scooter	Moped	Motor Scooter
HTA classification	Power-assisted bicycle, Bicycle	Motor-assisted bicycle	Limited-speed motorcycle (LSM)
Where on the roadway do I drive this vehicle?	As close to the right edge of the roadway as is practicable (similar to a bicycle).	Within a lane marked for motor vehicle traffic. If travelling slower than the normal speed of traffic at that time and place, then must travel as close to the right edge of the roadway as is practicable.	
Roads where operation is prohibited	Controlled access highways* (e.g. 400-series highways), and where municipalities prohibit		
Is this a motor vehicle under the HTA?	No	Yes	Yes
Is this a motor vehicle under the Criminal Code of Canada?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Required to be equipped with pedals?	Yes	Yes	No, not applicable - not manufactured with pedals
Key characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric-powered • Maximum power output: 500 W • Maximum speed: 32 km/h • Maximum weight: 120 kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas-powered • Maximum engine size: 50 cc • Does not attain a speed greater than 50 km/h within 2 km from start • Maximum weight: 55 kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric- or gas-powered • Maximum engine size: 50 cc • Maximum speed: 70 km/h • Can attain speed of 32 km/h within 1.6 km
Additional characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent front and rear wheel braking • May have 2 or 3 wheels • Steering handlebars • Minimum wheel diameter: 350 mm • Minimum tire width: 35 mm • No modifications allowed to increase speed or power • Must have bell, white front light and red rear light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent front and rear wheel braking • Pedals must be operable at all times • Does not have hand or foot-operated clutch <p>Note: regular bicycles with attached gas engines (i.e. moped conversions) are not eligible for registration by the Ministry of Transportation, and therefore cannot be used on public roads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent front and rear wheel braking • Minimum seat height: 650 mm • Minimum wheelbase: 1016 mm • Minimum wheel rim diameter: 250 mm • "Step through" scooter design, and handlebar steering

Minimum operator age	16	16	16
Helmet required?	Bicycle or motorcycle helmet	Motorcycle helmet	Motorcycle helmet
Driver's licence required?	No**	Yes: M1, M2 or M, or Restricted M2 or M with L endorsement	Yes: M1, M2 or M, or Restricted M2 or M with L endorsement
Plates and insurance required?	No	Yes, registration, insurance and moped plate required 	Yes, registration, insurance and limited-speed motorcycle plate required 
Passengers allowed?	Yes, if passenger seat available	No	Yes, if passenger seat available. Passenger must be able to reach foot pegs
Passenger minimum age	16	Not Applicable	None
Passenger helmet required?	Yes, bicycle or motorcycle helmet.	Not Applicable	Yes, motorcycle helmet.
Compliance label	Must have permanent label from manufacturer indicating it conforms to federal definition of a power-assisted bicycle. May be located on steering column. 	Must have permanent label from manufacturer indicating it conforms to federal definition of a limited-speed motorcycle if built after Sep. 1, 1988. May be located on steering column or under seat. 	

* Controlled-access highways include the 400-series highways, provincial highways 69, 6, 24, 35, 58, and specific parts of certain provincial highways. For more details, please see Schedule 1 in Ontario Regulation 630: Vehicles on Controlled-Access Highways.
Link: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_900630_e.htm

Additional Notes About E-bikes

Pedals: If the pedals have been removed from an e-bike, it is no longer considered to be an e-bike. Removing the pedals makes it an illegal motor vehicle because it does not conform with the HTA definition of a power-assisted bicycle. Operators run the risk of being ticketed for operating a motor vehicle without registration and insurance. E-bike purchasers who have concerns with the pedal location may wish to consider other models and/or styles of e-bikes.

Driving an e-bike while intoxicated: You do not need a driver's licence to operate an e-bike. However, an e-bike is considered a motor vehicle under the Criminal Code of Canada. Anyone operating an e-bike while intoxicated can be charged for impaired driving under the Criminal Code of Canada. If convicted, the offender would be subject to the Criminal Code penalties, including a fine or jail time, and a driving prohibition.

**** Suspended licences and e-bikes:** If your driver's licence is suspended, you may not be legally allowed to drive an e-bike. If you have been convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada that has resulted in a driving prohibition, you cannot legally operate an e-bike until the prohibition has been lifted. If your driver's licence has been suspended under these or other circumstances, it is recommended that you discuss your situation with a licensed legal practitioner before deciding to operate an e-bike.

For more information about these and other new and emerging vehicles, please see the MTO website: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/emerging/index.shtml>