

# 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 operating 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 and 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.

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.
7. Moped plate issued.
8. Annual registration fee is \$9.
9. No helmet or eye protection required for driver.
10. Class C, Non-Commercial Driver's License required.



## **MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE**

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

- CRITERIA:**
1. Horsepower is not more than 5 brake horsepower.
  2. Inspection required.
  3. Motorcycle plate issued.
  4. Annual registration fee is \$9.
  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, Non-Commercial 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 designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, or 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 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. Annual registration fee is \$18.
  6. Class M (motorcycle) required on driver's license.
  7. 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.