

Mopeds

Road rules and safety equipment

Factsheet

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To keep yourself and other road users safe when riding a moped, you must follow the road rules and you must have the right safety equipment.

Before you ride

Your moped must be registered and licensed.

Your number plate must be clearly displayed and securely attached at the back of the moped.

If you import a moped from overseas, it must also be entry certified when it arrives in New Zealand.

Find out more:

- www.nzta.govt.nz/registering-your-vehicle
- www.nzta.govt.nz/licensing-your-vehicle
- www.nzta.govt.nz/entry-certification

Moped or motorcycle?

Are you sure it's a moped and not a motorcycle? Double check!

Moped	Motorcycle
A moped has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ two or three wheels, and ▪ a maximum speed not exceeding 50km/h, and ▪ either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an engine capacity not exceeding 50cc, or - a power source other than a piston engine. 	A motorcycle is a motor vehicle running on two wheels (or not more than three wheels when fitted with a sidecar). <p>This includes a vehicle with motorcycle controls that is approved as a motorcycle by the Transport Agency.</p>
A moped isn't a motorcycle.	It doesn't include a moped.

There's more information online about the different classes of mopeds and motorcycles, and the differences and similarities between them. See www.nzta.govt.nz/motorcycles-and-mopeds.

Rules for moped riders

Your driver licence

You must have a current New Zealand driver licence (any class). If you don't, you may be able to use an overseas licence. See Factsheet 56: *New residents and visitors - driving in New Zealand* for more information.

Where you can ride

- You must ride on the road.
- You may use bus lanes and transit lanes, as long as there isn't a sign telling you not to.
- Always keep as far left as you can and stay within the lane.

Where you can't ride

You can't ride on the footpath or a cycle path unless you have permission from the road-controlling authority to ride on the footpath to deliver mail, newspapers or other printed matter to letterboxes.

Your moped's safety equipment

Your moped must have the right safety equipment (see over the page for more information).

Riding with others

- You can't carry a passenger if you have a learner licence.
- You can only carry a passenger if your moped has a pillion seat (a passenger seat behind the rider) and footrests for the passenger.
- You can only carry a passenger if the combined weight of the rider and the passenger isn't more than the maximum weight allowed for your moped. You'll need to check!
- A container or seat for an infant must protect their legs from the wheels.
- If you're riding with other mopeds, don't ride more than two abreast (side-by-side).
- Ride in single file when you're passing other vehicles, including parked vehicles.

Intersections

At intersections you must follow the road rules for motor vehicles, or get off the moped and walk across.

Mobile phones

You must not use your hand-held mobile phone while riding.

Towing

- You can tow a trailer with your moped, but you can't tow any other sort of vehicle.
- Your moped can't be towed by another vehicle.

Carrying a load

If you carry a load, it must be secure and must not touch the ground. It must not extend more than one metre in front of or behind the wheels, or half a metre (50 centimetres) on either side from the centre of the moped.

You must wear a helmet

All moped riders on New Zealand roads **must** wear a motorcycle helmet. Your helmet must meet an approved standard (see over the page) and must be securely fastened.

If a police officer stops you and asks to inspect your helmet, you must give it to them. If your helmet gets damaged, replace it with a new one.

Approved standards for helmets

Look for tags that show one of these marks to make sure your helmet meets the approved standard.



Complies with
JIS T8133



UN/ECE 22



Complies with
NZS 5430



Complies with
BS 6658



Complies with
AS 1698



Complies with
Snell Standards

DOT Helmets complying with FMVSS 218 are marked with the letters DOT. This standard is acceptable only for motorcycle helmets that have been made and bought in the United States of America.

Fitting your helmet

Check that your helmet is the right size. It should fit snugly on your head with minimum use of pads.

The Safety Helmet Assessment and Rating Programme (SHARP) website has great advice on how to choose a helmet that fits you correctly. Go to www.sharp.dft.gov.uk.

Safety equipment for your moped

Mopeds must have safety equipment fitted and must be in good condition.

*Approved vehicle standards

The safety equipment items that follow must meet the requirements we've listed in this factsheet.

Many of them must also meet an approved vehicle standard not listed here, if the moped was made on or after a certain date. Please check the details of the approved vehicle standards at www.nzta.govt.nz/motorcycles-and-mopeds.

We've marked the items that need to meet an approved vehicle standard not listed here with an asterisk (*).

Brakes*

Your moped must have at least one service brake on each wheel.

Headlamps*

- Your moped must be fitted with one or two dipped-beam (low beam) headlamps.
- The dipped-beam headlamp may be a single lamp that's fixed in the dipped position or a lamp that can be dipped by the rider.
- When turned on, the headlamp(s) must light up the road in front of the moped for at least 30 metres.
- If your moped was made on or after 1 January 1980, you must have your headlamp(s) on whenever you're riding. This includes during the daytime as well as night-time.
- If you have daytime running lamps fitted, you can use those instead of headlamps during the day.

The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It's not the source of the law and shouldn't be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Rear-facing lamp*

Your moped must be fitted with at least one red rear-facing lamp that can be seen from 100 metres away when turned on.

Stop lamps (brake lights)*

If your moped was first registered in New Zealand on or after 1 January 1991, it must be fitted with one or two rear stop lamps.

Note: if you don't have stop lamps, you must use a clear arm signal when you slow down or stop.

Reflector*

Your moped must be fitted with at least one rear reflector that can be seen from 100 metres away when light shines on it.

Rear-view mirror

If your moped was manufactured on or after 1 July 2000, it must have a rear-view mirror that gives you a clear view behind the moped.

Tyres

The tread pattern must be clearly visible across at least 3/4 of the tread width and around the entire circumference.

Horn

The horn must be able to be heard by other road users from at least 100 metres away (in normal traffic conditions).

Mudguards

Your moped must have mudguards fitted over each wheel (if practical).

Exhaust system

Your moped's exhaust system must be in good condition and must not be excessively noisy.

Footrests

Your moped must have suitable footrests or pedals fitted for the rider and any pillion passenger.

Direction indicators

If your moped doesn't have direction indicators fitted, you must use a clear arm signal when you're going to turn.

Your responsibilities

Mopeds don't need a warrant of fitness, but you must:

- make sure your moped is fitted with safety equipment that complies with the law
- make sure your moped is kept in a safe operating condition
- wear your motorcycle helmet
- follow the road rules.

If you don't, you could get a fine or be taken to court.

Be courteous on the road

It's important to keep everyone safe on the road, so please be considerate of other road users. Where the road is narrow, check that you're not slowing down the traffic flow and let the traffic pass you as soon as it's safe.

Contact details

- Call us: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.