

Approved motorcycles for learner and restricted riders

On 1 October 2012, a new rating system for motorcycles will come into effect, designed to improve safety for motorcycle riders.

The Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) identifies a range of motorcycles that are appropriate for learner and restricted motorcycle licence holders, based on their overall performance capability.



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The scheme will replace the current approach which is based on engine capacity alone. Currently, motorcycle riders on learner and restricted licences are allowed to ride any motorcycle 250cc or under.

The NZ Transport Agency has produced a list of LAMS-approved motorcycles, which are determined by:

- a maximum power-to-weight ratio of 150 kilowatts per tonne (the power is that specified by the manufacturer and the weight is that specified by the manufacturer plus 90kgs for the rider and riding gear), and
- an upper engine capacity limit of 660cc.

From 1 October, learner and restricted motorcycle riders will have a wider range of motorcycles to choose from. However, a small number of motorcycles, which are currently acceptable for learner and restricted licence holders to ride, will become LAMS-prohibited, due to their high performance capabilities.

From 1 October, riders will need to ensure the motorcycle they are riding meets the new criteria.

Learner or restricted licence holders are responsible for ensuring their motorcycle is LAMS-approved. Any motorcycle modified in a way that increases its power-to-weight ratio is not LAMS-approved, regardless of whether it appears on the LAMS-approved list.

Further information



For more information and to view the LAMS-approved and prohibited motorcycle lists, visit www.nzta.govt.nz/LAMS, email info@nzta.govt.nz or call the NZTA contact centre on 0800 822 422.