

# MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES AND MOPEDS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

For more information about, or for the differences between a moped, a motor-driven cycle and a motorcycle please see the “Mopeds, Motor-Driven Cycles and Motorcycles Fact Sheet” by visiting [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us) and clicking on the Motorcycle Information Center.

### **Do I need a helmet or eye protection to operate a moped?**

No helmet or eye protection is required while operating a moped.

### **Do I need a Class M (motorcycle) license to operate a moped?**

No, as long as you have a valid Class C, Non-Commercial Driver's License you may operate a moped.

### **Do I need a Class M (motorcycle) license to operate a motor-driven cycle?**

Maybe. Motor-driven cycles that have a manual transmission or a cylinder capacity greater than 50 CC's require the rider to have a Class M driver's license. If the motor-driven cycle has an automatic transmission and a cylinder capacity of 50 CC's or less, the rider only needs a Class C driver's license.

If you are interested in obtaining a license to operate a motor-driven cycle, you can apply for a motorcycle learner's permit on a DL-5 form. After successful completion of the licensing exam, you will be issued a motorcycle license with the “8” restriction indicating that you are restricted to a motor-driven cycle.

### **Do I need a helmet or eye protection to operate a motor-driven cycle?**

Yes. All motorcycle riders and passengers must wear eye protection. Since a motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle, Pennsylvania law requires any person who operates a motorcycle to wear protective headgear. You are required to wear a helmet. (NOTE: An exemption is available for riders that are at least 21 years of age and have either been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least 2 years or have completed a motorcycle safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.)

### **How do I get the 8 restriction removed?**

You may call PennDOT at 1-800-932-4600 to request a special motorcycle learner's permit. Upon successful completion of a skills evaluation on a motorcycle, the “8” restriction will be removed.

### **My learner's permit has expired. How do I get an extension?**

You must complete the Motorcycle Learner's Permit Application (DL-5), submit the \$10.00 fee, and pass a vision screening and knowledge test. However, you may extend your learner's permit before it expires one time without taking the knowledge test again.

### **I lost my motorcycle learner's permit. How can I obtain another permit?**

You must complete the Motorcycle Learner's Permit Application (DL-5) and submit a \$10.00 fee.

### **Can the motorcycle learner's permit be issued at all Driver's License Centers or must the application be mailed to PennDOT?**

Motorcycle learner's permits must be applied for at a PennDOT Driver License Center.

### **Are there any restrictions on my motorcycle learner's permit?**

Yes. Motorcycle permit holders are only authorized to operate a motorcycle between sunrise and sunset. No nighttime driving is permitted. Motorcycle permit holders cannot carry any passenger other than an instructor properly licensed to operate a motorcycle. Also, if you do not currently hold another class of license (such as a Class C Non-Commercial) then you can only operate a motorcycle under the instruction and immediate supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator. All riders with a learner's permit must wear a helmet and eye protection.

### **What are the road test requirements?**

The skills test for motorcycle riders is given on a test pad at a PennDOT Driver's License Center. An "in-traffic" skills test is not administered. The skills portion of the test consists of a pre-trip inspection and the evaluation of the following skills: left circles, right circles, and figure eights.

### **What should I bring with me the day of the skills test? Do I need to bring a licensed driver?**

If you already have another class of license, you will need to bring the following: your valid PA motorcycle learner's permit, valid PA driver's license, valid inspection sticker, valid registration card for the motorcycle, and proof that the motorcycle is currently insured. You will not need to be accompanied by a driver with a motorcycle license.

If you are not already licensed to operate another class of vehicle, you will need to be accompanied by a licensed motorcycle rider, in addition to the requirements above.

### **Do I need to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle?**

Pennsylvania law requires any person who operates a motorcycle to wear protective headgear, unless he or she is at least 21 years of age and has either been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years or has completed a motorcycle safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. **If you are exempt from wearing a helmet and your passenger is at least 21 years of age, your passenger is also exempt from wearing a helmet.**

### **Do I need a Class M (motorcycle) license to operate a 3-wheeled motorcycle (trike)?**

Maybe. If the 3-wheeled motorcycle has an enclosed cab, you do not need a Class M (motorcycle) license or motorcycle learner's permit. However, if the 3-wheeled motorcycle does not have an enclosed cab, you are required to have a Class M (motorcycle) license or motorcycle learner's permit. If you are interested in obtaining a license to operate a 3-wheeled motorcycle, you can apply for a motorcycle learner's permit on a DL-5 form. After successful completion of the licensing exam, you will be issued a motorcycle license with the "9" restriction indicating that you are prohibited from operating a 2-wheeled motorcycle.

### **How do I get the 9 restriction removed?**

You may call PennDOT at 1-800-932-4600 and request a special motorcycle learner's permit. Upon successful completion of a skills evaluation on a 2-wheeled motorcycle, the "9" restriction will be removed.

### **Are there any restrictions that apply to the special motorcycle learner's permit to remove the 8 and/or 9 restriction?**

Yes. If you are operating a conventional motorcycle with the special motorcycle learner's permit, you have the same restrictions as any other motorcycle learner's permit holder; no nighttime riding, no passengers (other than an instructor), and you must wear a helmet and eye protection. However, the restricted Class M (motorcycle) license allows you to continue to operate your motor-driven cycle or 3-wheeled motorcycle without the learner's permit restrictions.

### **I already have a motorcycle license. Do I need to notify PennDOT or update my motorcycle license if I purchase or ride a 3-wheeled motorcycle (trike)?**

No. If you are already licensed with the Class M (motorcycle), you are legal to ride a 3-wheeled motorcycle. You are not required to notify PennDOT and have the "9" restriction added to your driver's license.

### **I own a 3-wheeled motorcycle, and have a Class M (motorcycle) license. Will PennDOT automatically add the "9" restriction to my driver's license?**

No. You are legal to ride a 3-wheeled motorcycle. PennDOT will not automatically add the "9" restriction, nor are you required to notify PennDOT.

### **What should I do if I want to add the "9" restriction to my motorcycle license?**

If you want to have the "9" restriction added to your driver's license, you will need to write a letter to PennDOT requesting a "test authorization" so that you can be scheduled for a skills test on a 3-wheeled motorcycle. The letter should be mailed to PennDOT's Medical Unit at 1101 South Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8682.