

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

MOTORCYCLE DRIVER'S LICENSE

- To get a Class M driver's license, you must hold a valid Class D Wisconsin driver's license. You can obtain a motorcycle instruction permit when you successfully complete the written and vision tests, and the Class M license when you successfully complete the skill test.
- An applicant may qualify for a special "motorcycle only" driver's license.
- Non-resident operators must be properly licensed in their home state.

REGISTRATION

- All motor vehicles operated on public highways in Wisconsin must be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles unless specifically exempted by law.
- Vehicles properly registered in another state are exempt.
- Vehicles must be certified by the manufacturer for on-road use before registration and/or title will be issued.

Trail bikes and other motorcycles manufactured for off-road use are not eligible for registration. Operation of these off-road motorcycles is prohibited on all roads and streets in Wisconsin, including shoulders and ditches.

RIDE SAFE

TO GEAR UP PROPERLY, YOU NEED TO:

1. Equip your motorcycle as required.
2. Wear the right protective clothing.
3. Operate your motorcycle properly in traffic.

All three contribute to your basic safety.

When you ride your motorcycle you are not protected by being in an enclosed vehicle like other motorists. So special precautions are very necessary. This brochure offers information on how to gear up with what is required and recommended.

SAFETY TIPS

Even in good light and weather conditions, motorcycles tend to blend in with busy backgrounds and "disappear" even to the most cautious motorists. Remember to:

- Ride with your headlight on at all times.
- Wear brightly-colored clothing.
- Liberally decorate your motorcycle, helmet, jacket and gloves with light-reflecting tape or stickers.
- If vehicles are stopped to the left or right at an intersection, or if someone wants to turn left across your path, try to make eye contact with the driver to be sure he/she sees you.
- Some crashes involve rear-enders at traffic lights. Guard against this by holding down the brake pedal to keep your brake light on.

RIDER EDUCATION COURSES

THE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION'S BASIC RIDER COURSE:

This course is offered at most Technical Colleges throughout Wisconsin. Some also offer the Experienced Rider Course. Contact your nearest technical college for schedule information.



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Safety
Motorcycle Safety Program
P. O. Box 7936, Madison, WI 53707-7936
1-800-368-9677 or 1-800-DOT-WMSP

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/modes/motorcycles.htm>



Funded by NHTSA
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

HS508 02/07



RIDE RIGHT



GET PREPARED FOR SAFE RIDING



Gearing up means getting completely prepared for safe riding.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Headlight

- Must be white light, bright enough to reveal a person or object 350 feet away
- Must be lighted at all times—day or night—when the motorcycle is being operated.
- Modulating headlight is permitted for daylight operation only.

Tail Light

- Must be a red light, visible for at least 500 feet.

Brake Light

- Must be constant red or amber.
- Must be visible for at least 300 feet.

Muffler

- Must be properly functioning for constant operation.
- Must be properly maintained to prevent excessive, unusual noise or annoying smoke.

Horn

- Must be audible for at least 200 feet.

Brake

- Cycle must have at least one brake capable of stopping within 50 feet at 20 mph under normal conditions.

Rear-View Mirror

- Location of mirror must show a rear view of the roadway for at least 200 feet.

Handlebars

- May rise no more than 30 inches above the lowest point on the top of the driver's seat when seat is occupied.
- Improvised, defective, or repaired handlebars are prohibited.

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS

- Motorcycles may be equipped with an amber deceleration warning light.
- A modified exhaust system is prohibited if it amplifies or increases noise so that it is louder than the original equipment.

For information on modifications, call or write:

Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol
P. O. Box 7912, Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-3216
or contact a State Patrol
Region Post near you.

PROTECTIVE GEAR

Motorcycle riders are strongly urged to wear full protective gear. This includes:

- A full face helmet
- Leather or heavy duty long sleeved jacket
- Leather or heavy long pants
- Over-the-ankle boots
- Full-fingered leather gloves

Helmets

- Required for all operators and passengers under the age of 18. Operators are subject to fines and demerit points for carrying passengers (on the motorcycle or in the sidecar) under the age of 18 who aren't wearing a properly fitted helmet.
- Required for all operators with motorcycle instruction permits.
- Strongly recommended for use by all motorcycle and moped riders.
- Must meet or exceed DOT minimum standards.

Required Eye/Windshield Protection

- Can be a face shield attached to a helmet, goggles or glasses, or a windshield that rises a minimum of 15 inches above the handlebars.
- Tinted glasses are prohibited at night unless they are prescription photo-sensitive corrective lenses.

OPERATING YOUR MOTORCYCLE

- Be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to equipment, registration and operation.
- Ride your motorcycle on the traveled portion of the roadway (as other motor vehicles do).

Carrying Passenger(s)

- A single passenger is permitted on your motorcycle if you have a Class M license and your motorcycle is equipped with a seat and footpegs for two.
- Additional passenger(s) permitted in the sidecar (seatbelts recommended).

- Operators with motorcycle instruction permits may carry an instructor/passenger who has at least two years of driving experience and a valid Class M driver's license. After dark, the instructor/passenger must be at least 25 years of age, have at least two years of driving experience and a valid Class M driver's license.

Side-By-Side

- Two motorcycles may operate in a single traffic lane if both riders consent.
- A staggered riding formation is strongly recommended.

Operating Between Lanes

- Operate your motorcycle within a single lane of traffic. Whitelining/lane splitting is illegal.

Road Hazards

- Learn to "read" the road. Looking far ahead will give you time to position yourself in traffic and plan the safest course of action.
- Take railroad crossings at a 90 degree angle. Slow down well before crossing the tracks and stand slightly on the pegs to take the shock.
 - Maneuver around potholes, if it can be done safely. If not, slow down, take the hole straight on, and rise slightly on the pegs.

Turning Safely

- Reduce speed before entering a turn.
- Accelerate through and out of the turn.
- Lean the body and the motorcycle into the turn.

You may obtain a free-loan copy of a video-tape showing the mechanics of "counter steering" by contacting the Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Program.

Parking

- Motorcycles may be parked at an angle in parallel parking areas.
- Up to three motorcycles may be parked in metered stalls (unless signs say otherwise). If the meter expires all three may receive a citation.

