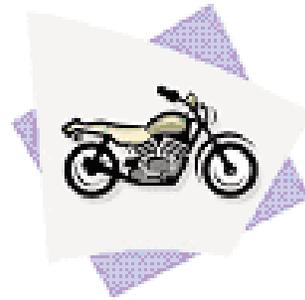


# DEFINITIONS

## MOTORCYCLE

By law, a motorcycle is any 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, including any bicycle with a motor or driving wheel attached. A three-wheeled motor vehicle on which the operator and passenger ride within an enclosed cab may be registered as a motorcycle if the manufacturer indicates it meets the safety standards for a motorcycle on the certificate of origin and it is designed to be operated on public ways.



A tractor or a motor vehicle designed for the carrying of golf clubs and not more than four persons, an industrial three-wheel truck, or a motorized bicycle are not considered motorcycles.

A motorcycle is registered in the same fashion as any other motor vehicle, using the RMV-1 form.

## MOTORIZED BICYCLE

A moped (also known as a motorized bicycle) is a pedal bicycle with a helper motor, or a non-pedal bicycle with a motor. Its maximum speed must be thirty (30) miles per hour (mph) or lower. Its cylinder capacity must be fifty (50) cubic centimeters or lower. It must have an automatic transmission.



To register a moped, you must complete a Motorized Bicycle (Moped) Registration application. This application is available at RMV branches or at [www.massrmv.com](http://www.massrmv.com). The registration fee is \$40.00 for two years. You will also be subject to a 6.25 percent sales/use tax, as applicable. Once your application is approved, it is stamped and becomes your registration. You must carry it whenever you operate the moped. You will also be issued a decal that must be affixed on the rear of the moped so that it is clearly visible.

## OPERATION OF MOTORIZED BICYCLES

Under Massachusetts law, mopeds fall into the category of “motorized bicycles”(with or without pedals) and are therefore regulated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. You must have a valid driver’s license (any class) or learner’s permit to drive a moped. You must follow these rules when driving a moped:

- Do not drive faster than 25 mph.
- Do not ride on limited-access or express state highways with signs saying that bicycles are not allowed.
- Use the correct electronic and hand signals before stopping or turning.

- Do not ride on off-street recreational paths (you can use bicycle lanes along roads).
- Drivers and passengers must wear helmets that meet or exceed the US DOT standard.
- Obey all traffic laws and regulations.
- Do not carry a passenger if you are driving with a learner's permit.

You can be fined up to \$100 for a violation of any of these rules

## **MOTORIZED SCOOTER**

A motorized scooter is any two or three-wheeled vehicle with handlebars and an electric or gas motor that can move the vehicle with or without human propulsion. Motorized scooters can either be designed for the driver to sit or stand.



The Registrar of Motor Vehicles has further determined that “mini-motorcycles” and “pocket bikes” are motorized scooters. All motorized scooters must be equipped with operational “stop” and “turn” signals and must meet all federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The definition of a “motorized scooter” shall not include a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or three-wheeled motorized wheelchair.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles will not register motorized scooters.

## **OPERATION OF MOTORIZED SCOOTERS**

Under Massachusetts law, motorized scooters fall into the category of “motor vehicles” and are therefore regulated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Any individual who operates a motorized scooter is subject to the motor vehicle laws of Massachusetts.

You must have a valid driver's license (any class) or learner's permit to operate a motorized scooter. You can be issued tickets for violating motor vehicle laws. You must follow these rules when driving a motorized scooter:

- Do not drive faster than 20 mph.
- Do not drive on limited-access or express state highways.
- Wear a helmet that meets or exceeds the US DOT standard.
- Always stay to the right side of the road, even when passing another vehicle.
- Use the correct electronic and hand signals before stopping or turning.
- Do not drive after sunset or before sunrise.
- Do not carry any passengers.
- Obey all traffic laws and regulations.

You can be fined up to \$25 (1st Offense); \$25-\$50 (2nd Offense); \$50-\$100 (3rd + Offense).

## Limited Use Vehicle (LUV)

A limited use vehicle can have two or more wheels. It can go faster than 30 mph, but not more than 40 mph. A limited use vehicle can either be a motorcycle or a passenger vehicle; it depends on how many wheels it has.



Two Wheels

In addition, a limited use vehicle must have all of the following:

- A certificate of origin
- A 17-character VIN
- Certification by the manufacturer that it meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for that particular class of vehicle (e.g. passenger, motorcycle, truck, etc.)



Three Wheels

To be operated on a public way, a limited use vehicle must be registered, titled, insured, and inspected. If an electrical motor or batteries solely power the vehicle, no emissions test is required. If, however, the LUV is liquid-fueled, the emissions test is required.

The registration fee will depend on the vehicle type.

**Note:** In most instances the maximum speed of the vehicle will not be on the Certificate of Origin. It will be up to the dealer, insurance agent, and the customer to ensure the vehicle is properly registered.

## Operating a Limited Use Vehicle

You must have a valid driver's license or learner's permit to drive a limited use vehicle. If the limited use vehicle is a motorcycle, the license or permit must be Class M. If the limited use vehicle is a passenger vehicle, the license or permit must be Class D.

You cannot drive a limited use vehicle on a limited-access or express state highway or any road with a speed limit faster than 40 mph.