

Fact Sheet

Getting Your Motorcycle Licence

The classes explained

If you want to ride a moped or motorcycle, you must hold a driver's licence that authorises you to ride these classes of vehicles. There are three classes of vehicles relating to motorcycles.

They are:

Vehicle class	What you can ride	Eligibility requirements to take riding lessons	Eligibility requirements to hold class	Other classes covered
R-N R class with an N restriction	A moped means any motorcycle that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is designed to not be capable of exceeding 50km/h. Has an engine capacity not exceeding 50cc; or Is not powered by a piston engine, whether or not it is also capable of being propelled, but not include a power assisted pedal cycle. 	Minimum age to obtain learner's permit is 15 years 6 months. Must pass motorcycle theory test. Must complete Drivers Licence Application (DLA1) form. Pay relevant fees.	Minimum age 16 years	Nil
R-E R class with an E restriction	Any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAMS approved motorcycle with an engine capacity not exceeding 660cc and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 150 kW/t (with foot or hand operated clutch). LAMS approved motorcycle list can be viewed at www.transport.wa.gov.au/lams 	Minimum age 16 years. Must pass motorcycle theory test. Must complete initial driver's licence application process (including passing motorcycle theory test) if this is the first class of driver's licence applied for.	Minimum age 17 years.	R-N
R	Any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any motorcycle with a power to weight ratio exceeding 150 kW/t or an engine capacity exceeding 660cc (with an automatic or manual transmission). 	Must hold R-E class	Must have held R-E class for at least two years.	R-E and R-N

When can I apply?

You can apply for an R-N learner's permit at 15 years and 6 months of age or an R-E learner's permit at 16 years of age. If you have not previously held a driver's licence, you must follow the same procedures for someone getting their licence for the first time. This will include passing a motorcycle theory test, hazard perception test and practical riding assessment as well as completing a minimum of 50 supervised driving hours (including five night time hours) in an approved Log Book if applying for an R-E class or a motorcycle theory test and practical riding assessment if applying for an R-N class. More information is available at www.transport.wa.gov.au

If you already hold a Western Australian (WA) driver's licence (not a learner's permit) this automatically authorises you to ride a moped. You can apply for the authorisation to ride an R class vehicle and start to learn how to ride a R class vehicle once you hold a licence authorising you to ride an R-E class vehicle. However, you cannot sit the practical riding assessment for an R class vehicle until you have held the authorisation to ride R-E class vehicles for at least two years.



The motorcycle theory test

You will need to sit a motorcycle theory test if you are applying for the authorisation to ride an R-N or R-E class vehicle. This test consists of 35 multiple-choice questions specific to motorcycling and safe riding practices, in addition to general road rules and traffic regulation questions. A sample quiz of the motorcycle theory test is available on the Department of Transport (DoT) website.

You can study for this test by reading the Ride Safe book. Ride Safe books are available from Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centres and regional DVS agents, by contacting DoT or online on the DoT website.

Application for motorcycle class

You can apply for the authorisation to ride a motorcycle at any DVS centre or regional DVS agent. Contact DoT or visit the DoT website for your nearest location.

When making an application, you must:

- Complete an application form
- Pass an eyesight test
- Provide sufficient proof of identity (POI) as well as proof of residency in WA. At least one of the documents must include your signature. All documents presented must be original copies.

If you have not previously held a WA driver's licence you will need to provide a combination of compulsory primary and secondary identification documents before you can be granted a WA driver's licence. More information on POI requirements can be located online on the DoT website. or by contacting DoT.

Current fees can be located online at the DoT website or by contacting DVS. When you've completed all of these requirements and have been issued a learner's permit you can begin your riding lessons.

Hazard Perception Test

All applicants for R-N and R-E class licences must undertake a motorcycle specific hazard perception test (HPT). R-E applicants must complete a minimum period of 6 months on an R-E learner's permit before being eligible to sit the HPT.

The test consists of a computer screen that displays a series of moving traffic scenes. You have to respond to each scene by clicking a mouse to indicate when it is safe to commence a manoeuvre or when it is necessary to take the appropriate action to reduce the risk of a crash for the traffic situation.

The computer recorded response time, or lack of response from you, will then be compared to the recommended response (or no response) times required to pass the test.

You can sit the HPT at any DVS centre or regional agent. You do not need to make an appointment, you will be charged a fee prior to sitting the HPT and only one HPT may be attempted per day.

More information and practice examples of the Hazard Perception Test are available online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs.

Learning to ride a motorcycle

Your supervising driver must be:

- a person who holds an instructor licence issued under the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act 1963; or
- a person who is an instructor in a youth driver education course conducted or supervised by a body authorised by the Department of Transport for that purpose; or
- a person who is authorised to perform any driving of a kind for which the driving instruction is to be given and has had that authorisation for a period of, or periods adding up to:
 - at least two years, in the case of driving a moped; or
 - at least four years in any other case.

Your supervisor must accompany you at all times either as a pillion passenger, in a sidecar or on another motorcycle.

If you are applying for the authorisation to ride an R-E class vehicle, you must always ride a LAMS approved motorcycle.

As a learner you must always display 'L' plates and comply with any other relevant conditions.

The practical riding assessment

When you are ready to sit your practical riding assessment, contact DoT to book a test time. You can do the practical assessment for a moped once you have reached 16 years of age. The earliest you can do the practical assessment for an R-E class vehicle is when you are at least 17 years of age and if this is your first class of licence held you will need to complete a minimum 50 hours of supervised driving (including five hours of night time driving) in an approved Log Book prior to sitting the assessment. All assessments must be conducted on a motorcycle that meets the minimum vehicle assessment standards for the relevant class.

They are:

Vehicle Class	Minimum vehicle standard
R-N	A moped.
R-E	A LAMS approved motorcycle with an engine capacity more than 50cc (but not exceeding 660cc) and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 150 kW/t fitted with a hand or foot operated clutch. Assessments will not be conducted if a sidecar is attached.
R	A non LAMS approved motorcycle with an engine capacity exceeding 660cc and engine capacity exceeding 150kW/t. Assessments will not be conducted if a sidecar is attached.

If your assessment is conducted on a motorcycle with automatic transmission, your licence will be endorsed to restrict you to riding automatic motorcycles only.

You must wear appropriate attire that consists of enclosed footwear, approved helmet, long trousers and jacket. Gloves and eye protection are also highly recommended.

The practical assessment will determine your general riding ability. This may include such tasks as your ability to perform an emergency stop under full control without locking either wheel. You may also have to show that you can balance the machine at low speeds and demonstrate your ability to correctly park and start on a hill. Applicants who fail must re-book and pay for another assessment.

Once you have passed

If you have just passed your R-N practical, you will be granted a provisional driver's licence authorising you to ride R-N class vehicles only. If you have passed your R-E practical assessment and this is the only class of vehicle that you have applied for the authorisation to drive (other than an R-N class), you can be granted a provisional driver's licence that authorises you to ride R-E class vehicles.

If you already hold a WA driver's licence (not a learner's permit), and you have passed the practical test for your R-E or R class, your licence record will simply be amended to include the new class of vehicle you are authorised to drive. If your current driver's licence is not due for renewal, it is advisable to pay for a replacement licence so that your plastic driver's licence document shows your new authorisation. Current fees and charges can be found on the DoT website listed below.

For more information

For more information please contact us.

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