

# Electric bikes

An electric bike, or motor-assisted cycle, is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals and an electric motor or motors (power output not exceeding 500 watts in total). A motor assisted cycle (MAC) cannot be gas-powered.



## Cycles without attached pedals

Gas-powered cycles and electric cycles without attached pedals do not qualify as an electric motor-assisted cycle and will not pass a provincial motor vehicle inspection that would enable them to meet registration, licensing and insurance requirements for on-road use.

## Rules of the road

To operate a motor-assisted cycle (MAC), you must be 16 or older and wear a bicycle helmet.

You don't need a drivers licence or need to register, licence and/or insure your MAC, but you are subject to the same rights and duties as the driver of a motor vehicle. You also must follow bicycle safety rules.

## Different rules for electric bikes and mopeds/scooters

Some motor-assisted cycles look a lot like [mopeds and scooters](#) (also known as limited-speed motorcycles—LSMs). However, the rules for operating MACs and LSMs aren't the same.

Make sure you're riding legally. Check the table below to see which rules apply to you.

### Motor assisted cycles

Motor assisted cycles must be powered by electricity. If your bicycle has a gas engine attached, it will not be considered a motor assisted cycle.

For more information please consult the definition of a "motor assisted cycle" in [Motor Vehicle Act](#) , section 1 and refer to the [Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation](#) .

Motor Assisted Cycles	Limited Speed Motorcycles



Description	<p>Combine bicycle pedal power with electric motor assistance.</p> <p>To qualify, must be a Motor Assisted Cycle as defined in the Motor Vehicle Act and meet <a href="#">Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation</a> criteria.</p>	<p>Are low-powered motorcycles (that is, mopeds and scooters). LSMs rely on motor power and are generally not equipped with bicycle-style pedals.</p> <p>To qualify, must be a Limited Speed Motorcycle as defined in the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.</p>
Power	<p>Electric motor or motors (power output not exceeding 500 watts in total) and bicycle-style pedals.</p>	<p>Gas engine 50 cc or less <i>or</i> electric motor less than 1,500 watts.</p>
Maximum speed	<p>32 km/h on level ground.</p>	<p>70 km/h on level ground.</p>
Vehicle registration, licensing and insurance	<p>None required. (Insurance may be available under a homeowner's policy.)</p>	<p>An LSM must be registered, licensed and insured as a motor vehicle.</p>
Driver	<p>No driver's licence is needed. You must be at least 16 years old.</p>	<p>You must have a driver's licence; however, you can not operate on a learner's licence other than a Class 6 or 8 motorcycle learner's licence.</p>
Helmet	<p>Must wear a bike helmet.</p>	<p>Must wear a motorcycle helmet.</p>
Rules of the road	<p>Subject to the same rights and duties as the driver of a motor vehicle, such as obeying all traffic lights and control devices.</p> <p>As well, bicycle safety rules should be followed.</p>	<p>Subject to the same rights and duties of a motor vehicle, such as obeying all traffic lights and control devices.</p> <p>In some areas, highway use is</p>

	See Section 183 of the Motor Vehicle Act: <a href="#">Rights and duties of operator of cycle</a> .	restricted. For details, please contact your local police.
Manufacturer's label	As a condition of initial sale, all commercially manufactured MACs must have a label stating that the vehicle is a “power-assisted bicycle.”	As a condition of initial sale, all commercially manufactured LSMs must bear a permanently affixed compliance label. On this, or on another separate label, a statement must appear that the use of the vehicle may be restricted by provincial authorities to certain roads.