

Motorcycle (RCW 46.04.330)

"Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, on which the driver:

(1) rides on a seat or saddle and the motor vehicle is designed to be steered with a handle bar; or

Examples:



(2) Rides on a seat in a partially or completely enclosed seating area that is equipped with safety belts and the motor vehicle is designed to be steered with a steering wheel.

Examples:



Use

All motorcycles must follow the rules of the road for a motor vehicle.

No motorcycle may not transport passengers under the age of 5 ([RCW 46.37.530](#))

No motorcycle operator may ride or carry passengers unless the vehicle has a seat and foot pegs for each passenger or is equipped with an additional bucket seat and seat belt meeting the standards prescribed under 49 CFR 571. ([RCW 46.61.610](#))

Cannot ride with both feet on the same side of the motorcycle ([RCW 46.61.612](#))

May not attach to any other vehicle on the roadway ([RCW 46.61.614](#))

License

The operator of any motorcycle with handlebars as outlined in RCW 46.04.330 (1) must have a valid driver's license specially endorsed by the Department of Licensing enabling the holder to drive such vehicles. ([RCW 46.20.500](#))

The operator of motorcycles defined under RCW 46.04.330 (2) as having a seat in a partially or completely enclosed seating area that is equipped with safety belts and designed to be steered with a steering wheel, must have a valid drivers license to operate the vehicle ([RCW 46.20.500](#))

All motorcycles must be registered and display a valid license plate ([RCW 46.12](#))

Requirements

2-3 wheels ([RCW 46.04.330](#))

Electric or fuel motor (50cc or more) ([RCW 46.04.330](#))

Driver rides astride the motor ([RCW 46.04.330](#))

Windshield or be wearing glasses, goggles, or a face shield ([RCW 46.37.530](#))

Handlebars (cannot be thirty inches higher than the seat or saddle for the operator) ([RCW 46.61.611](#))

Foot pegs (for operator and passenger) ([RCW 46.61.610](#) and [612](#))

Two mirrors [CFR 571.111 \(RCW 46.37.527\)](#)

Brakes [CFR 571.122 \(RCW 46.37.527\)](#)

Controls [CFR 571.123](#)

Head light [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.523-524\)](#)

Tail light [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.050\)](#)

Brake light [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.525 & 070\)](#)

License plate light [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.050 and 46.16.240\)](#)

Red reflector to the rear [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.525\)](#)

Turn signals (if originally equipped) [CFR 571.108 \(RCW 46.37.070 or 200\)](#)

Tires [CFR 571.119 & 120 \(RCW 46.37.539\)](#)

Horn [\(RCW 46.37.539\)](#)

Muffler [\(RCW 46.37.539\)](#)

Mirrors [\(RCW 46.37.539\)](#)

The operator and any passenger are required to wear a USDOT approved helmet meeting the requirements outlined in [49 CFR 571.218](#) for the year in which it was built [\(RCW 46.37.530\)](#).

Note: While we have tried to compile a complete listing of laws regarding this type of vehicle, additional requirements may apply. To read additional law requirements please visit the Washington State legislative Web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/>