Motorcycle Resource Sheet

(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:

Licensing

- 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)
- Must be registered and display a valid license plate (RCW 46.16A.030 and 46.16A.200)

Equipment Requirements

- 2-3 wheels (RCW 46.04.330)
- Electric or fuel motor (50cc or more) (RCW 46.04.330)
- Windshield or be wearing glasses, goggles, or a face shield (RCW 46.37.530)
- Handlebars (cannot be 30 in. higher than the seat/saddle) (RCW 46.61.611)
- Foot pegs (for operator and passenger) (RCW 46.61.610 and 612)
- 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 and 070)
- License plate light CFR 571.108 (RCW 46.37.525 and 070)
- Red reflector to the rear CFR 571.108 (RCW 46.37.525)
- Turn signals (if built after January 1, 1960) CFR 571.108 (RCW 46.37.070 and 200)
- Tires CFR 571.119 & 120 (RCW 46.37.539)
- Horn (RCW 46.37.539)
- Muffler (RCW 46.37.539)
- Mirrors CFR 571.111 (RCW 46.37.530)
- Fenders (RCW 46.37.500)
- Speedometer (WAC 204-10-028)

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)
- All passengers must have a seat and foot pegs or be 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)
- The operator and any passenger are required to wear a USDOT certified 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/