

# 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:



## 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](#)).

## 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](#))
- 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](#) and [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 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 ([RCW 46.37.530](#))
- Fenders ([RCW 46.37.500](#))

**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/>