



State of Florida
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Division of Driver Licenses



Motorcycles, Mopeds and Motorized Scooters

Q & A on endorsements, rider courses, licensing, permits, helmets, insurance laws and more!

Note: FL laws referenced are subject to change - Keep abreast at www.myflorida.com

When do I need a motorcycle endorsement? If you wish to be licensed to ride 2 or 3 wheel motorcycles **MORE THAN 50 cc.** Sections 322.03(4), 322.01(26), Florida Statutes.

What are the requirements to obtain a motorcycle endorsement?

Motorcyclists are required to:

- Be at least 16 years old (s. 322.05(1), F.S.
- Hold at least a Class E driver license, or complete the requirements for a Class E driver license; s. 322.12(5)(a), F.S.
- (Exception: A driving test in an automobile is not required if applying for a "Motorcycle Only" license); s. 322.12(5)(a), F.S.
- Complete the Florida Rider Training Program Basic Rider Course (**BRC**) sections 322.12(5)(a), 322.0255(8), F.S.
- Go to a local Driver License office with proper identification and have the endorsement added to the Driver License.

What are the requirements concerning the Florida Rider Training Program?

- **BRC- Basic Rider Course** -You must hold at least a Learner's driver license to enroll. Course sponsors are educational institutions, privately owned companies and certain motorcycle dealerships; fees vary. Reference the web site below for sponsor list. **BRC** Course length is 15 hours (class and range time); motorcycles, helmets and handbooks are provided.
- **ERC-"Experienced Rider Course"** - You must provide a motorcycle, helmet and riding gear, along with proof of liability insurance for the motorcycle used. (This course cannot be used for license waiver)
- **NOTE-** ERC courses are only available for those who have a motorcycle endorsement. This is a 6 hour rider course used for the further enhancement of skills and/or a refresher course.

What are driver license requirements for mopeds and other motor vehicles 50 cc or less under driver license laws?

- A regular operator driver license (Class E) is required to operate vehicles 50 cc or less because under 322.01 (26) (27); F.S., they are considered motor vehicles and under s. 322.03(1), F.S., you must have a driver license to operate motor vehicle on public roadways. **A Florida Learner's license or "Motorcycle Only License" will not suffice.**
- No license is needed if operating a moped under human power only as defined in F.S 320.01 (28)
- **Is there a motorized vehicle you can operate on a public street without a driver license?**
 Yes, if at least 16 years old, you may ride a bicycle with an electric helper-motor **not** capable of propelling the bicycle faster than **20 mph** on level ground. (Applicable sections of law are s. 322.03 (1), 322.01(26) and 316.003(2), F.S.)

See back of page for more questions and answers
 And for more information, check out the Florida Rider Training Program web site at
www.motorcycles.hsmv.state.fl.us

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Watch for...



What are the requirements for obtaining a Temporary "Instruction Permit" for Motorcycle Operation? (s. 322.07(1), F.S.)

- Effective July 1, 2008 the State of Florida is no longer issuing Temporary "Instruction Permits" for Motorcycle Operation.
- If a permit was received prior to July 1, 2008 it will be valid for the full 90 day period however will not be renewable after the expiration date.

What does getting a "Motorcycle Only" driver license involve? Who can get one? (Under FL Driver License Laws)

- **Be at least 16** and, if under 18, hold a Learner's license for one year with no traffic convictions; s. 322.05(1) & (2)(a), F.S.
- Pass the same knowledge test as for a regular operator (Class E) license; s. 322.12(5)(a), F.S.
- **Motorcyclists must** successfully complete a BRC motorcycle safety education course; s. 322.12.5(a) & 322.0255, F.S.
- Your license will be restricted to operating "Motorcycles Only." Per s. 322.12(5)(a), F.S.

Can I upgrade to a regular license later and have the "Motorcycle Only" restriction removed?

- Yes, by passing the regular motor vehicle driving test in a four-wheel motor vehicle; s. 322.12(5)(a), F.S.

What if I want to get endorsed for a three-wheel motorcycle or sidecar motorcycle? You have two options;

Option One;

- Complete the requirements under "What are the requirements to obtain a motorcycle endorsement?"
- Once you complete the above requirements you will be endorsed to ride either a two wheel or three wheel motorcycle.

Option two;

- Hold at least a regular Class E operator's driver license.
- Complete the sidecar/trike motorcycle safety course.
- Go to a driver license office or tax collectors office that issues driver licenses. Inform them that you completed the course. Upon providing proper ID and paying the required endorsement fees, your license will be issued with a motorcycle endorsement.
- The costs include the \$7.00 endorsement fee, plus a license fee (see fees for original, renewals, duplicates and replacement licenses), and \$5.25 if applying at a county tax collectors office.

NOTE- Your endorsement will be restricted to "Three-wheel Motorcycles Only" which also includes sidecars.

For a list of three-wheel motorcycle or sidecar training locations look under *FAQ's* at www.motorcycles.hsmv.state.fl.us

For other locations nationwide go to www.esc.org

Can gas & electric motorized scooters be operated on public streets, roadways, sidewalks or bicycle paths?

- Motorized scooters that lack license plates and registration can not be operated on public roadways even if the rider is licensed.
- Motorized scooters that lack license plates and registration can only be operated by human power when on a bicycle path or sidewalk. 316.1995, F.S.

Are you required to wear a helmet & eye protection to ride motorcycles? How about mopeds? (Defined in s. 316. F.S.)

- **Motorcycles:** A person 21 or older may operate a motorcycle without a helmet **if** they carry proof of an insurance policy providing for at least \$10,000 in medical benefits for injuries incurred as a result of a crash while operating or riding on a motorcycle; such as an HMO, Blue Cross or other health insurance card, or a separate motorcycle medical payments coverage policy card or policy declarations page. Those **under 21** operating motorcycles or riding, as a passenger **must** wear a Department approved motorcycle helmet, s. 316.211(1) & (2), F.S.
- **Mopeds and motorcycles 50 cc or less, 2 brake horsepower or less, and cannot exceed more than 30 mph on level ground** do not require helmet for the operator, passengers under 16 however **are** required to wear helmets; per s. 316.211.4, F.S.
- **Eye Protection:** Anyone operating a motorcycle -*as defined in* s. 316.211(2), F.S., **must** wear eye protection

Is insurance required for motorcycles? Under certain circumstances YES. *See below about your Financial Responsibility*

- Proof of insurance is **not** required to register motorcycles as with four-wheel motor vehicles. **However**, if a motorcycle operator *is charged in a crash with injuries*, or has had certain violations in the operation of a motor vehicle, the motorcycle owner or owner/operator can be held financially responsible for bodily injuries to others and property damage to the vehicles of others. If no liability coverage was in effect, then bodily injury/property damage liability insurance must be purchased and kept **for three years** under an **S.R. 22 filing** to avoid license and tag/registration suspension **or**, to reinstate license, tag/registration **after** suspension. (Section 324 F.S.)