



## Motor Cycle Industry Association Fact Sheet

### How to get a motorcycle or moped licence?

#### How to get your motorcycle or moped licence

There are different ways you can get a licence, depending on your age and the type of bike you want to ride.

#### Moped Licences

You can hold a provisional licence from 16 years old, but it is only valid when the compulsory basic training (CBT) has been completed with an approved training body. This certificate is also valid for motorcycles once a rider is 17 years old and has the correct licence. The full moped licence gives provisional motorcycle entitlement., but not to people under 17 years.

#### Can I ride a moped if I haven't been trained?

If you passed your car test before February 2001 you are entitled to ride a moped without L plates or taking CBT. If you passed your car test after that date you must complete a basic riding course the CBT ( Compulsory Basic Training)

#### **The MCI does not recommend that people ride any type of powered two-wheeler without basic training**

#### Motorcycle Licences

A person has to be at least 17 years old before they can hold a provisional motorcycle licence.

#### **What can I do with a provisional motorcycle licence?**

Ride a moped or motorcycle as a learner with L plates

After a CBT course it is legal, for people 17 years or over to ride a bike up to 125cc unaccompanied.

Riders age 16 years can only ride a bike up to 50cc

You can't use motorways or carry passengers

*A provisional licence issued before 1 February 2001 is valid for two years.*

*Licences issued after 1 February 2001 are valid until the rider is 70 years old.*

#### **What is compulsory basic training?**

CBT is the starting point for learners. Once the course has been passed the certificate is valid for two years. The courses are run by training bodies approved by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).

You will have a practical test and a theory test. A person will not need to take a theory test if they already hold a licence for another category of motorcycle or have passed a moped test since 1 July 1996.

#### **Basic Training Statistics**

Number of CBT passes = 120,000 per annum

Number of full motorcycle licence passes = 60,000 per annum

The difference between men and women passes = 85:15



# How to get a motorcycle or moped licence?

## What test do I need to take to get a full licence?

There are three categories of full licence

- Category P - moped
- Category A1 - restricts riders on a bike up to 125cc ( 11kW / 14.6bhp)
- Category A - standard motorcycle licence

### Category A - Standard Motorcycle

The practical test must be taken on a bike between 121cc and 125cc and capable of at least 100 kph. After passing the test a rider can only use bikes up to 25kW (33.3bhp) for two years, but you can discard L plates and carry a passenger. After two years you can ride a bike of any size.

## What is Direct Access?

### Category A - Large Motorcycle

People over the age of 21 years who have completed CBT and a theory test can follow the direct access route. The test is taken on a bike with a power output of 35kW (46.6bhp) and it allows the rider to use any bike once they have passed.



## Useful Contacts

Driving Standards Agency - [www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk) or 0115 901 2500  
DVLA (Driver Licencing) - 0870 240 0009

The Motor Cycle Industry Association (MCI) is the UK's only trade association for the non-retail sector of the motorcycle industry.

It aims to 'promote motorcycling and stimulate growth within the industry'.  
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