



Owning and Operating a Power Bicycle or Moped in Alberta



On July 1, 2009, new definitions for power bicycles and mopeds will come into effect in Alberta. The definitions are being updated within the *Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation* to be consistent with federal regulations that define them as a power-assisted bicycle and a limited speed motorcycle. However, the terms "power bicycle" and "moped" will still be used in Alberta.

The changes are being made because Alberta's definitions are more restrictive than the federal definitions and don't allow for the types of vehicles which are being sold in the province. Harmonizing the federal and provincial definitions for these vehicles will eliminate uncertainty in consumer transactions and add clarity to operator and vehicle licensing requirements.

POWER BICYCLES

New as of July 1, 2009

- Electric motor with a maximum power of 500 watts
- Top speed of 32 km/h
- No weight restriction
- Includes power assisted bicycles

Prior to July 1, 2009

- One or more electric motors with a maximum electric power of 750 watts or engine displacement of no more than 50 cubic centimetres
- Top speed of 35 km/h
- Has to weigh less than 35 kg

Operating Requirements

- No driver's licence required
- Minimum driving age is 12
- No insurance or registration required
- Motorcycle helmet required

MOPEDS

New as of July 1, 2009

- Electric motor or propelled by an engine that has a displacement of not more than 50 cubic centimetres
- Top speed of 70 km/h
- No weight restrictions
- Minimum seat height of 650 mm
- Includes limited speed motorcycles

Prior to July 1, 2009

- Top speed of 50 km/h
- Weighs between 35 kg and 55 kg

Operating Requirements

- Minimum Class 7 driver's licence required
- Minimum driving age is 14
- Insurance and registration required
- Motorcycle helmet required

For more information on operating a moped or power bicycle in Alberta, please visit the following web site:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/531.htm>