

Motorized scooters, skateboards and the Segway™

i N F O
update

Today, more than ever, people are choosing recreation activities that include the use of motorized scooters, motorized skateboards and, more recently, the Segway™ Human Transporter. As well, people are opting to use motor assisted cycles, limited speed motorcycles and motorized wheelchairs to increase personal freedom and mobility and as an alternative to the car. However, it's important to understand and follow the rules and regulations that govern these motorized devices, since some of them are legal for on-road use and some are not.

Motorized vehicles, such as motorized push style scooters, motorized skateboards and the newly introduced Segway™ are defined as motor vehicles under the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* but they cannot be used on public roads because:

1. they do not meet provincial equipment safety standards for motor vehicles, including lighting, braking and seating requirements;
2. they do not meet BC's limited speed motorcycle and motor assisted cycle specifications; and
3. they do not meet federal standards for motor vehicles for use on public roads.

Operating a motorized scooter, motorized skateboard or Segway™ on BC roads could result in being ticketed by the police for driving an unlicensed and uninsured motor vehicle.

These types of vehicles (motorized scooters, motorized skateboards or the Segway™) are not to be confused with motor assisted cycles, limited speed motorcycles or motorized wheelchairs used for medical related ambulatory assistance. Motor assisted cycles and limited speed motorcycles are permitted on the road, while motorized wheelchairs may operate on the sidewalk or road following the same rules as a pedestrian.

Limited Speed Motorcycle

Must be registered and licensed for use on roads. Must have a driver's licence (any class).



A limited-speed motorcycle is defined as:

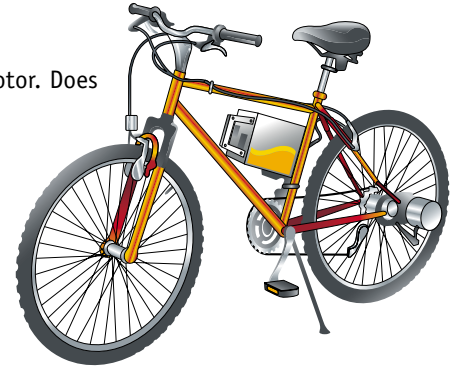
- No more than 50 cc engine displacement or 1.5 kw motor rating.
- Does not require clutching or shifting after the drive system is engaged.
- Has a maximum speed on level ground of 70 km/h.
- Weighs no more than 95 kg excluding fuel and batteries.
- Wheels must be 25.4 cm in diameter or more.

Motor Assisted Cycle*

A motor assisted cycle is a 2- or 3-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals and an electric motor. Does not require registration, vehicle licence, driver's licence or vehicle insurance.

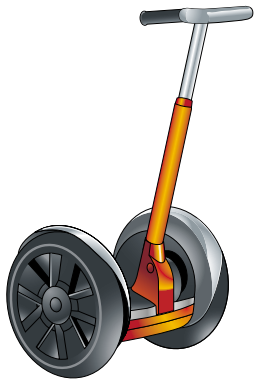
- Operator must be 16 years of age or older.
- Operator is required by law to wear a bicycle helmet.
- May be operated on the road like any bicycle, except where municipal bylaws restrict operation.
- The motor must be electric, rated at 500 watts or less, and be incapable of propelling the cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/hr on level ground, without pedaling.

* Further details can be found in the *Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation*, BC Reg. 151/2002.



Segway™ Human Transporter

Cannot be operated on roads in BC.



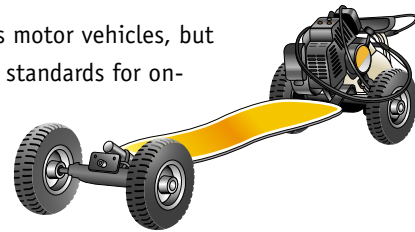
- BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* defines this type of device as a motor vehicle, but the Segway™ does not meet provincial equipment safety standards for on-road use.
- It is not included as a vehicle intended for on-road use under the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada)* and instead it is considered a device for pedestrian environments.
- It may not be operated on a sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.
- It may only be operated where BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* doesn't apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.

Motorized Scooter or Motorized Skateboard

Cannot be operated on roads in BC.



- BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* defines these devices as motor vehicles, but they do not meet provincial equipment safety standards for on-road use.
- May only be operated where BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* doesn't apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.
- It may not be operated on a sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.
- The *Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada)* recognizes some motorized scooters or motorized skateboards as restricted motor vehicles and these are only imported for use in off-road environments.



Motorized Wheelchair

Does not require registration, vehicle licence, driver's licence or vehicle insurance.



- Motorized wheelchairs are treated similarly to pedestrians. A motorized wheelchair may only be operated for the purposes for which it was designed.
- Operators of motorized wheelchairs, also known as mobility assist devices, should remember the following safety tips:
 - Ride only where it's safe and follow the same rules and guidelines as pedestrians.
 - Use courtesy and think safety.
 - Drive at the same speed as other pedestrian traffic.
 - Be extra cautious of possible traffic as you approach driveways and laneways.
 - Try to avoid sudden turns.
 - Avoid using your motorized wheelchair if you're taking any medication, drugs or alcohol that may affect your skills or judgement.

If you still have questions about driving or riding a motorized vehicle, please check with your local Autoplan broker.