

## WHAT IS A MOTORIZED SCOOTER?



California Vehicle Code section 407.5 defines a motorized scooter as:

- Any two-wheeled device that has handlebars
- Is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator
- Is powered by an electric or gas motor

*No driver's license, insurance or special plate required.*

*Driver's must be 16 years of age or older - CVC 21235(d)*

*Driver (regardless of age) must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet - CVC 21235(c)*

*No person shall operate a motorized scooter over 15 miles per hour - CVC 22411*

*Driver shall not operate a motorized scooter on a highway with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour unless the motorized scooter is operated within a designated bike lane with white line. - CVC 21235(b) & 21229*

*Operator shall not operate motorized scooter upon side walk - CVC 21235(g)*

*Lighting equipment is required after darkness - CVC 21223(a)(1)*

*Operators are subject to the rules of the road - CVC 21221*

*Unlawful for any persons to operate a motorized scooter while under the influence of alcohol or drugs - CVC 21221.5*

*Must operate in same direction as automobile traffic and stay as close to the right curb as practicable - CVC 21228*

**NOTE:**  
*A motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and motorized-bicycle/mopeds are not motorized Scooters.*

## WHAT IS A BICYCLE?



California Vehicle Code section 39000 defines a bicycle as:

- Any device upon which a person may ride, which is propelled by human power.
- Through a system of belts, chains or gears.
- Having either two or three wheels (one of which is at least 20 inches in diameter), or having four or more wheels.

*A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle or ride upon a bicycle as a passenger unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet - CVC 21212*

*Operators are subject to the rules of the road - CVC 21200*

*Unlawful for any person to operate a bicycle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs - CVC 21200. 5*

*Lighting equipment required during darkness - CVC 21201(d)*

*Operate in same direction as automobile traffic and stay as close to the right curb as practicable - CVC 21650*

*No person shall ride as a passenger on a bicycle other than upon a separate attached seat - CVC 21204*

### **DISCLAIMER**

The laws and language contained in this brochure are subject to change. It is the responsibility of the individual owner/operator to remain up to date on current law pertaining to their vehicle/device.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
[www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) [www.cho.ca.gov](http://www.cho.ca.gov)  
[www.citrusheightsod.net](http://www.citrusheightsod.net)  
[www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov)



## **PUBLIC ROADWAYS USE OF MOTORCYCLES, SCOOTERS, MOPEDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES**

**Crescent City Police Department**  
**686 G Street**  
**Crescent City, California 95531**  
**(707) 464-2133**  
**FAX (707) 465-5955**



## WHAT IS A MOTORCYCLE?



California Vehicle Code Section 400 defines a motorcycle as:

- A vehicle whose motor displaces 150 cubic centimeters (cc's) or more .
- Has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider.
- Is designed to travel on nor more than three wheels in contact with the ground
- And weighs less than 1,500 pounds

*Driver's license and MI endorsement required - CVC 12500 & 12804.9 (4)*

*To obtain MI endorsement on your existing driver's license you must:*

1. *Pass the appropriate written exam*
2. *Pass a riding skills test (DMV will accept a certificate of competence from an approved novice motorcycle training program instead of skills test, such as the California Motorcyclist Safety Program)*
3. *If the individual is under 21 years of age, mandatory successful completion of a basic rider course approved by the eHP is required (such as the basic rider course available through the motorcyclist safety program)*

*Insurance Required - CVC 16028 (a)*

*License Plate required and shall be securely fastened to the vehicle - CVC 5200 & 5201*

*Vehicle must be registered and display current month & year tabs - CVC 4000 (a) & 5204*

*Driver and passenger must wear safety helmet meeting standards set by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety - CVC 27803 (a)*

## WHAT IS A MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLE?



California Vehicle Code section 405 defines a motor-driven cycle as:

- Any motorcycle with a motor that displaces less than 150 cubic centimeters (cc's)
- A motor-driven cycle does not include a motorized bicycle as defined in section 406 CVC.

*Driver's license and MI endorsement required - CVC 12500 & 12804 (4)*

*Insurance is Required - CVC 16028 (a)*

*License plate required and shall be securely fastened to the vehicle - CVC 5200 & 5201*

*Vehicle must be registered and display current month & year tabs - CVC 4000 (a) & 5204*

*Driver and passenger must wear safety helmet meeting standards set by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety - CVC 27803 (a)*



### WHAT IS A POCKET BIKE?

- Is considered a motor-driven cycle, but is not permitted on public roadways, bicycle paths, sidewalks, bikeways or recreational trails
- It is designed and built for use on a paved closed circuit track for racing competitions
- CVC 38026.5(b) prohibits the operation of off-highway vehicles on public roadways.
- Unlawful to operate any vehicle which is in an unsafe condition which presents an immediate safety hazard - CVC 24002

## WHAT IS A MOPED OR MOTORIZED BICYCLE?



California Vehicle Code section 406 (a) & (b) define a moped or motorized bicycle as:

(a) "Motorized Bicycle" or "Moped" is any two or three wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals if powered solely by electrical energy, has an automatic transmission, is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour.

### **CVC 406 (a)**

*M2 endorsement required - CVC 12804.9 (5)*

*Insurance required - CVC 16028 (a)*

*Required to display a special license plate - CVC 5030 & 5037*

*Driver and passenger must wear safety helmet meeting standards set by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety - CVC 27803 (a)*

*Exempt from yearly registration renewal- CVC 4020*

### **CVC 406 (b)**

(b) A motorized bicycle is also a device that has fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and has an electric motor that has a power output or not more than 1000 watts. Is capable of propelling the device at a speed of no more than 20 miles per hour.

*Operator must be 16 year of age or older*

*Must wear a properly fitted & fastened bike helmet that meets standards of - CVC 21212*

*Exempt from motor vehicle financial responsibility, driver's license, and special license plate requirements*

*Shall not operate a motorized bicycle which has been modified in such a manner that it no longer conforms to the definition (CVC 23135 & 24016)*