

Motorcycle Licences

There are four possible stages to getting a licence for the largest most powerful motorcycle. Broadly, this covers mopeds, motorcycles up to 125cc, motorcycles with a power rating not exceeding 35kW and motorcycles greater than 35kW.

Changes which came in to effect from 19 January 2013

- A rider can move from one stage to then next by Progressive access.
- A person can ride the most powerful bike without having ridden other bikes by direct access provided they are 24 years and over.

Direct Access - This is where a full licence in a lower category of motorcycle has not been held previously or if held, they do not wish to wait 2 years to progress to the bigger bike.

Progressive Access - This means that a person may be entitled to complete a course of training in order to obtain the higher motorcycle category full licence. For example, if they are 18 years of age and have held a full Category A1 licence for 2 years, they can complete a training course (or progression module) of IBT on an A2 motorcycle, and upon satisfactory completion of the training, they can get a full Category A2 licence.

Where a rider takes the progressive access training route (opts not to take a driving test) to get an A2 licence s/he must take a driving test if later taking the A category licence. This means that a rider can only take the training option under progressive access for either the A2 or A category licence but not for both.

Table – Motorcycle Licence Categories

Licence Category	What type of Motorcycle	Rules for getting a Licence
AM	Mopeds and three wheeled vehicles with a maximum design speed of 45km/h as well as light quadricycles	Minimum age 16, pass a theory test, get a learner permit, take modules 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Initial Basic Training (IBT) and pass a driving test on an AM type of motorcycle
A1	Motorcycle up to 125cc, power rating not more than 11kW with a power to weight ratio no greater than 0.1kW/kg	Direct access at minimum age 16, pass a theory test, get a learner permit, take Initial Basic Training (IBT) modules 1, 2, 3 & 4 if not already completed under category AM and pass a practical driving test on an A1 type motorcycle (the representative vehicle for this category is a cylinder

		capacity of at least 120cm ³ , capable of a speed of at least 90km/h, with a power output not exceeding 11kW.
A2	Motorcycle less than 35kW, a power/weight ratio not greater than 0.2kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle more than double its power.	Two routes – (a) Direct access at minimum age 18, pass a theory test, get a learner permit, take Initial Basic Training (IBT) modules 1, 3, 5 on an A2 type motorcycle and pass a practical driving test from six months after the start date of the A2 learner permit. (b) If rider has an A1 full driving licence for a period of 2 years then this licence can be achieved by taking a training course (IBT Module 5) on an A2 motorcycle with an ADI and completing a practical driving test on the A2 vehicle; or if the rider has an A1 full driving licence for a period of 2 years they can alternatively complete a prescribed training course on the A2 vehicle.
A	All motorcycles including those greater than 35kW. The minimum age at which this licence can be held is age 20.	Two routes – (a) Direct access at age 24, pass a theory test, get a learner permit take Initial Basic Training (IBT modules 1, 3 and 5) and pass a driving test after waiting six months. (b) Progressive access at minimum age 20 where the rider has held an A2 full driving licence for 2 years, then this licence can be achieved by taking Initial Basic Training (IBT) module 5 on a category A motorcycle with an ADI and by passing a driving test (no requirement to wait six months).

[Click here for an overview on motorcycles and the manner in which you can access the different categories](#)

IBT completed previously on other motorcycle

If you have previously completed IBT for an 'A1' type motorcycle, you only need to complete the Progression Module (Module 5) of the IBT programme on an A or A2 type motorcycle before you can drive on the public road.

For a Category A motorcycle you will need to sit the driving test in a motorcycle without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 595cm³, an unladen mass of more than 175kg., and an engine power of at least 50kW. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.25kW/kg.

For a Category A2 motorcycle you will need to sit the driving test in a motorcycle without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 395cm³, and an engine power of at least 20 kW, but not exceeding 35 kW and with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW/kg., and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.15 kW/kg.

Held a category A Motorcycle licence in 1999 and the learner permit did not lapse for 5 years since.

If your first motorcycle learner permit for Category A was issued prior to 15 November 1999 (or prior to 18 December 1999 if you held a Category A1 full driving licence for a period of at least two years in the previous 10 years or were at least age 25 on the date the Category A permit commenced), and has not lapsed for a period of 5 or more years since, you are exempt from IBT. If you did not hold the permit for Category A before that date, you are not exempt from IBT in order to undergo a Category A test now.

Please see FAQ's on Motorcycles for further information.