

Rules for the licensing of motorcyclists changed on 19 January 2013 – The following are some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

Q 1. Why did the motorcycle licence rules change on 19 January 2013?

A 1. It is recognised that motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable and the new licensing rules are a step towards making the progression to riding larger motorcycles safer for young riders.

Q 2. I have a full Category A driving licence. How will this be affected by the new licensing rules coming into being on 19 January 2013?

A 2. If you hold the highest class of full motorcycle driving licence (category A) then you are not affected in any way.

Q 3. I am aged 16 or over and have passed my driver theory test for an A1 what do I need to do to get a full driving licence.

A 3. You must take out a learner permit in the category A1, complete Initial Basic Training (IBT), wait six months and take a driving test. You must present for a driving test with a motorcycle of minimum 120cm³ and no greater than 125cm³.

Q 4. I have a full driving licence in the category M (moped) on my licence, however, on the renewal application the category M is not printed. What do I apply for?

A 4. The name of the category M (moped) was changed from 19th January 2013. It is now the category AM (moped). There is no change to the size of motorcycle or the type of driving test you do.

Q 5. What size motorcycle can I do the driving test in for an A1 category?

A 5. You must present in a motorcycle of minimum of 120cm³ and no greater than 125cm³.

Q 6. I am under 24 and have passed the driver theory test in the AM and I want to take out a learner permit in the category A, can I do this?

A 6. The minimum age for direct access to Category A is 24 years, therefore unless you have held a category A2 full driving licence for a minimum of 2 years you will have to wait until

you are 24 or have held the category A2 full driving licence for 2 years. If you have held the A2 for 2 years then you can progressively access the A category.

Q 7. What is Progressive access?

A 7. 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 Initial Basic Training (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.

Where a person is taking the progressive route by doing training only they will not need to hold the learner permit for 6 months before getting the full driving licence.

Where a person is taking a driving test route then they must hold the learner permit for 6 months before sitting the driving test.

Q 8. What is direct access?

A 8. Provided you meet the minimum age requirements of the particular category, you can take out a learner permit in the category without having held a full licence in a lower category of motorcycle or do not wish to wait 2 years to progress to the bigger motorcycle.

Q 9. Do I need a learner permit to complete the course of training?

A 9. Yes, you must hold a learner permit in the category of vehicle you propose to do the training in.

Q 10. I held a learner permit in the category A which expired in 2013/2014 (less than 5 years) and I now wish to renew and I am under 24 years can I renew this learner permit.

A 10. You may not renew if you are under 24 years. You can take out a learner permit in the category A2. You will need to complete the course of training before driving on the road in the A2 motorcycle.

Q 11. I have held a learner permit for the category A which expired in 2013/2014 (less than 5 years) and I now wish to renew and I am over 24 years, I have never done IBT do I need to do now?

A 11. Yes, you must complete IBT modules 1, 3 & 5 which you renew your learner permit in the category A motorcycle before you can drive on the road.

If you have previously completed IBT for an A1 type motorcycle, you only need to complete the Progression Module (Module 5) of the IBT programmes on an A type motorcycle.

Q 12. What is the fee for the A2 driving test?

A 12. The fee for the A2 driving test is the same for all motorcycle tests i.e. €85.

Q 13. What types of motorcycle are in the various licence categories?

A 13. The Table below sets out the motorcycle types in each category.

Licence Category	What type of Motorcycle
AM	Mopeds and three wheeled vehicles with a maximum design speed greater than 25 km/h but not greater than 45km/h as well as light quadricycles. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 16.
A1	Motorcycle less than 125cm ³ , power rating not less than 11kW with a power to weight ratio no greater than 0.1kW/kg. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category licence is age 16.
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. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 18.
A	All motorcycles including those greater than 35kW. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 20, where an A2 licence has been held for 2 years. Direct access is possible at age 24.

Q 14. Who must take a driver theory test before applying for a motorcycle licence?

A 14. If you have never taken a motorcycle theory test you must now sit a theory test before you can get a first learner permit. Any person who took out a first motorcycle learner permit (or formerly a provisional licence) since April 2001 will have passed a theory test and need not do so again in order to get a learner permit in the motorcycle category, provided the learner permit in the category has not expired for a period of more than 5 years. For information or to book a driver theory test you can visit www.theorytest.ie