

FAQs on E-Bikes, Pedelects or Battery Scooters

What is an electric bicycle? An electric bicycle, also known as an e-bike or booster bike, is a bicycle with an electric motor. There are many types of e-bikes, from e-bikes that only have a small motor to assist the rider's pedal-power (pedelecs) to more powerful e-bikes which don't need to be pedalled at all (power on demand), unless the rider wishes.

What is an electric / battery powered scooter? An electric scooter is a small platform with two or more wheels that is propelled by an electric motor. Besides the motor, the rider can also propel the electric scooter forward by pushing off the ground.

What is the law on e-bikes / pedelecs / battery powered scooters? Regardless of the type of bike, the rule is as follows: If it can be powered by mechanical or electrical power **alone** (i.e. it can go without you pedalling or scooting it) then it is considered to be a *mechanically propelled vehicle* (MPV). Under Road Traffic Law, if an MPV is used in a public place it is subject to all of the regulatory controls that apply to other vehicles. Therefore, it must be roadworthy, registered, taxed and insured. The driver of the vehicle must hold the appropriate driving licence and is obliged to wear a crash helmet.

What is the definition of 'mechanically propelled vehicle'? The Road Traffic Act 1961 at Section 3(1) (a) and (b), defines a mechanically propelled vehicle as: "a vehicle intended or adapted for propulsion by mechanical means, including:

(a) a bicycle or tricycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power, whether or not the attachment is being used,

(b) a vehicle the means of propulsion of which is electrical or partly electrical and partly mechanical, but not including a tramcar or other vehicle running on permanent rails."

What category vehicle is my Pedelec/motor assisted bike/scooter? L1e to L7e categories cover a wide range of 2, 3 and 4 wheeled vehicle types. If this query relates to registration please contact [Revenue](#).

Do I need a licence to operate an e-bike/battery scooter? This depends on whether the vehicle is classified as an MPV (see info above). If it is an MPV, please contact our [Licensing Section](#) on 1890 41 61 41 or (096)25000 to clarify which licence category is required for the vehicle concerned.

How can I register my e-bike? For an e-bike / battery scooter to be registered it will need an EC Cert of Conformity (COC) from the manufacturer. For more information in relation to registration please contact [Revenue](#).

There is no COC available for my e-bike/scooter. What can I do to register it? If the manufacturer cannot supply a COC, this means your e-bike/scooter can only be used on private property or purpose built tracks.

Do I need to get my e-bike/scooter tested? Currently, no. However under road traffic law it is the owner/driver's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is kept in a roadworthy condition at all times when used in a public place. All parts and equipment must be in good working order. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

Are engine/converter kits legal on push bikes/scooters? There is no law against them however please note that the addition of the engine may result in your bike being treated as an MPV which means it'll have to be registered, taxed, insured etc. Please see info on MPVs above. In addition any conversion must be carried out to an appropriate standard so as not to render the vehicle unroadworthy, unsafe or likely to cause an accident.

Is it legal for children to ride e-bikes or battery scooters on public roads? This depends on whether the bike/scooter in question is an MPV or not (see info above). It is illegal for persons under the age of 16 to ride an MPV in a public place. If the bike is not an MPV, there is no law against children riding it in a public place. The RSA strongly recommends that young children should always be supervised if riding in a public place.

I don't know if my e-bike is classed as an MPV or not? Please refer to the MPV criteria above, including the legal definition. **If you are still unsure please seek legal advice.** The RSA does not assess vehicles on a case by case basis to ascertain whether they are MPVs or not. It is the legal obligation of the vehicle owner to ensure that the vehicle which he/ she owns, complies with all of the regulations applicable to the category of vehicle concerned.