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 120cm$^3$ and no greater than 125cm$^3$.

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 120cm$^3$ and no greater than 125cm$^3$.

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. What is the fee for the A2 driving test?

A 10. The fee for the A2 driving test is the same for all motorcycle tests i.e. €85.

Q 11. What types of motorcycle are in the various licence categories?

A 11. The Table below sets out the motorcycle types in each category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licence Category</th>
<th>What type of Motorcycle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Motorcycle less than 125cm³, 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q 12. Who must take a driver theory test before applying for a motorcycle licence?

A 12. 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