

# E-Scooters

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is an e-scooter?**

**A.** An electric scooter or e-scooter is a vehicle with a small standing platform and no seat, for use by one person only, with two or more wheels and propelled by an electric motor. The rider can also propel the e-scooter forward by pushing off the ground.

### **Q. When do the new laws for e-scooters come into force?**

**A.** The regulations for e-scooters come into force from 20 May 2024.

### **Q. Are e-scooters legal in Ireland?**

**A.** From 20 May 2024, e-scooters are legal to use on public roads under the [Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023](#).

### **Q. What is the minimum age limit for e-scooter users?**

**A.** E-scooter users must be 16 or older. Gardai will have the power to seize an e-scooter if it's being used by anyone under the age of 16.

### **Q. Do I need to register, tax, or insure my e-scooter?**

**A.** No.

### **Q. Do I need a licence to use my e-scooter in a public place?**

**A.** No.

### **Q. What are the rules for using e-scooters in Ireland?**

**A.** From 20 May 2024, e-scooter users must:

- Drive on the left, including in cycle and bus lanes.
- Be 16 or older.
- Obey the rules of the road, particularly for traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, pelican crossings and zebra crossings.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or school warden.
- Obey all traffic lights, including bicycle traffic lights.
- Obey all traffic signs in the same way that they apply to cyclists.
- Not carry passengers or goods.
- Not use the footpath.
- Obey a speed limit of 20km/h.
- Not hold or use a mobile phone.

### **Q. What are the technical specifications for e-scooters?**

E-scooters must:

- Have a maximum power output of 400 watts or less.
- Have a maximum weight of 25 kg (including batteries).
- Have a maximum design speed of 20 km/h or less.
- Have wheels with a minimum diameter of 200mm.
- Be fitted with front and rear lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell.
- Be fitted with a manufacturer's plate certifying the power output, weight and design speed.



**Q. What if my e-scooter doesn't meet the technical requirements in the regulations?**

**A.** If your e-scooter doesn't meet the current legislative requirements, it will remain illegal for you to use it in a public place. It will be subject to enforcement by An Garda Síochana and may be seized.

**Q. Can I carry a passenger on an e-scooter?**

**A.** No. It's illegal and unsafe for you to carry a passenger on an e-scooter and a fixed charge notice will apply if you're caught.

**Q. What rules apply for e-scooters for alcohol/drugs?**

**A.** An e-scooter may not be used while under the influence of an intoxicant. An e-scooter user charged with this offence will face a court appearance and can be fined up to €2,000.

**Q. What are the rules governing the use of e-scooters in public places?**

From 20 May, E-scooters can be used:

- by people over 16.
- on cycle and bus lanes.
- on local, regional and national roads.

E-scooters are **not** permitted:

- to be used by people under 16.
- to carry goods or passengers.
- to have a seat.
- to be used on footpaths, pedestrianised areas or on motorways.

In addition, where a bicycle is not permitted, e-scooters are not permitted either. Rules that cover bicycles apply to e-scooters.

**RUS 055: No Pedal Cycles or Electric Scooters****Q. What are the standards for using an e-scooter?**

**A.** E-scooters must have lights, a bell or audible warning device, reflectors and brakes. They must be in a roadworthy condition and must not be fitted with seats. The same fixed charge notices (fines) that apply to cyclists will apply to e-scooter users.

**Q. By law, do I need to wear a helmet and high vis clothing when using my e-scooter?**

**A.** No, but we strongly recommend you do, for your own safety.

**Q. Do I have to have lights on my e-scooter?**

**A.** Yes. Legally, you must have front and rear lights on your e-scooter, and these must be switched on during lighting up hours and darkness.

**Q. Do I need to maintain my e-scooter in a roadworthy condition?**

**A.** Yes. Under road traffic law, the owner and driver must ensure their vehicle is 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.

**Q. Where can e-scooters be used?**

**A.** E-scooters can be used on local, regional and national roads and are permitted to use cycle lanes and bus lanes.

**Q. Where must e-scooters not be used?**

**A.** E-scooters must not be used on footpaths, nor in pedestrian areas unless there is a cycle lane. They cannot be used on motorways, or in tunnels where bicycles are prohibited. They cannot be parked in areas where parking is prohibited, eg loading bays, accessible parking and charging bays.

Where a bicycle is not permitted, e-scooters are not permitted either. The rules for bicycles also apply to e-scooters.



### **RUS 055: No Pedal Cycles or Electric Scooters**

**Q. What is the maximum speed of an e-scooter?**

**A.** E-scooter users must not exceed 20 km/h on public roads. Users who exceed the maximum speed limit will risk a fixed charge notice of €50.

**Q. How can other road users share the road safely with e-scooters?**

**A.** Motorists sharing the road with e-scooters should follow the same guidelines as for sharing the road with cyclists. Drivers should give one metre clearance when overtaking an e-scooter user in speed zones that are 50 km/h or under, and 1.5 metres in speed zones over 50 km/h.

**Q. How can e-scooters share the road safely with other road users?**

**A.** Familiarise yourself with the traffic laws and regulations concerning e-scooters. Understanding speed limits, where e-scooters are allowed travel and other rules can help you responsibly share the road. However, e-scooter users must obey the rules of the road. Breaking the rules of the road, not following regulations and improper or dangerous use of an e-scooter will likely result in fines.

**Q. What happens if I am in a collision?**

**A.** If you are an e-scooter user and injured by another vehicle, you should exchange details with the driver, including their insurance details. If possible, the incident should be reported to Gardai. Some helmets have cameras built into them and this footage could prove useful when trying to determine liability for a collision.

If you are in a collision with an e-scooter and you suffer injury or property damage, you should, if possible, ask the user for their name and address. In addition, you should request details of the scooter they are using (make, model, engine size, etc). Should you suffer injuries, medical assistance should be sought as soon as possible. If possible, the incident should be reported to Gardai.

**Q. Can I bring my e-scooter onto public transport?**

**A.** Due to safety concerns associated with lithium-ion batteries on e-scooters in the enclosed confines of a public transport vehicle, it is intended that e-scooters will not be permitted on State-provided public transport services – Luas, rail and bus.

**Q. What do I need to be aware of if I'm buying an e-scooter?**

**A.** E-scooters for sale within the EU must comply with the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and this has been transposed in national law by the [Machinery Regulations S.I. 407/2008](#).

You should ensure that you buy from a reputable retailer/distributor, and checks should be carried out to ensure:

1. The e-scooter is CE marked, with details of manufacturer, date of manufacture and designation/serial number on its CE plate.



2. A Declaration of Conformity must be provided with the e-scooter, drawn up and signed by the manufacturer declaring it complies with the Machinery Directive and relevant standards.

Please note that an e-scooter with a price that appears to be too good to be true may not comply with the legislation or safety standards and may not be safe for use.

**Q. What fixed charge notices (FCNs) will apply to e-scooters?**

**A.** The list of FCNs for e-scooters is below. A €50 charge will apply for each offence.

Description of Contravention	Fine
Electric scooter exceeding the speed limit.	€50
Driving an electric scooter in a public place without reasonable consideration for other people using the place.	€50
Failure to stop electric scooter for a school warden sign	€50
Failure to stop an electric scooter when so required by a member of Garda Síochána	€50
Using an electric scooter to carry goods	€50
Using an electric scooter to carry passengers	€50
Using an electric scooter equipped with a seat	€50
Modifying an electric scooter in a manner that is prohibited in that regulation	€50
Towing another vehicle, any equipment, implement or any other item	€50
Using an electric scooter that is not roadworthy	€50
Exceeding the maximum design speed	€50
Exceeding the maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor, or combination of electric motors	€50
Exceeding the dimensions provided for in that regulation	€50
Failure to fit a braking device in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit lighting and reflectors in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit an audible warning device, bell or horn in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit wheels and tyres in accordance with that regulation	€50
Driving an electric scooter along or across a footway, other than for access or egress	€50
Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey traffic lights	€50
Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey traffic lights/signs at a railway level crossing	€50
Driving an electric scooter into a pedestrianised street or area other than on a cycle track.	€50
Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey cycle traffic lights	€50
Holding a mobile phone while driving an electric scooter.	€50



