

RSA

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Working To Save



# Information Booklet

INITIAL BASIC TRAINING  
FOR MOTORCYCLISTS (IBT)

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority

# bike afely

**IT'S NOT JUST YOU WHO CRASHES**



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## What is motorcycle IBT?

IBT stands for Initial Basic Training – a training course for learner drivers. It can help you to master basic motorcycling skills and improve your knowledge of road safety. The standard course lasts 16 hours and is broken into four modules, which you can take at different stages. In addition, there is a Progression Module to allow riders to change vehicle types and sizes. See pages 9-11 for more detail on what's covered in the training.

We know from statistics that motorcyclists are vulnerable on our roads and face risky situations. It is important that you have the information and skills you need to deal with the various hazards you will face on your bike. IBT is your 'first step' on the road to becoming a safe and competent rider.

You will have to complete a motorcycle IBT training course before you can take your bike on the road unsupervised. At the end of the IBT course you will get a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion. You should keep this with your learner permit at all times when traveling on the public road or in a public place.

There are specific vehicle requirements for each category of IBT. Please ensure that the motorcycle used in your training meets the description as listed for the IBT category below.

For additional information on the IBT process and the different routes available to obtaining a full licence please visit [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) for further details.

Type of IBT Training Course	Learner Permit Needed	Description	Engine Size
Small Motorcycles	AM	Two-wheeled or three-wheeled, other than with twinned wheels, mechanically propelled vehicle, not capable of being manually propelled. The machine must have a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cm <sup>3</sup> , in the case of an internal combustion engine, or a maximum continuous rated power of no more than 4 kilowatts in the case of an electric motor. The vehicle must have a design speed of at least 25km/h but not more than 45km/h.	< 50cc

Small Motorcycles	A1	A Category A1 motorcycle, other than with twinned wheels, without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 115cm <sup>3</sup> and not exceeding 125cm <sup>3</sup> , and capable of a speed of at least 90km/h, with an engine power not exceeding 11kW and with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.1kW/kg. If the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.08kW/kg.	< 125cc
Large Motorcycle	A2	A Category A2 motorcycle, other than with twinned wheels, without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 395cm <sup>3</sup> , and an engine power of at least 20kW, but not exceeding 35kW, 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 0.15kW/kg.	< 35 Kw of power
Large Motorcycles	A	A Category A motorcycle, other than with twinned wheels, without sidecar, with a cylinder capacity of at least 595cm <sup>3</sup> , 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.	Un restricted
Motor Vehicles	B (Code 73)	Quadricycle (For those with certain learner permit restrictions)	

## Where can I go for motorcycle IBT training?

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has approved motorcycle IBT trainers throughout the country. You can only take the IBT course with an approved IBT trainer. Some approved driving instructors (ADI) provide normal learner driver training but not IBT. To make sure your training is with a person who is IBT approved, check the list on our website [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) - follow the ADI Link for a list of IBT Approved Trainers and IBT Approved Training Centers in your area. You may also ask your local motorcycle dealer to advise you on finding an IBT trainer.

## About motorcycle IBT trainers

All approved IBT trainers are motorcycling instructors and they have the training resources they need to deliver IBT. You can learn with confidence in a safe environment and the trainer will only let you progress to the next module of the course when they are sure you have the requisite knowledge and or skills required in the previous module. We monitor the work of each IBT trainer through the Driver Education Section.

## The motorcycle IBT training course

We have worked with motorcycle driving instructors to develop the IBT course. We have designed the modules to allow you to move between IBT trainers if you need to, for example if you move to a new area.

The Standard IBT course covers four separate modules (numbered 1-4), there is also a progression Module (Module 5), each of which mixes theory and practice. To make it more varied and interesting, some parts of the modules are delivered in a classroom, some on an approved training compound and some out on a public road under the supervision of your trainer. See page 9-11 for more details of the modules.

If you have already completed IBT on an automatic type motorcycle and now wish to ride a manual type, you must undergo a progression module which covers module 2 and 4 of the syllabus on the new type of motorcycle. There is no need to repeat module 1 and module 3 again. When moving from a category 'A1' full driving licence, to a category 'A2' type learner permit, in either manual or automatic" a progression module needs to be completed on the larger motorcycle. Each category of Learner permit also has minimum ages and unless you are over 24 yrs of age there is a requirement to have held an A2 type driving

licence for two years before you can move on to a full unrestricted A licence.

See Appendix A for details of direct and progressive access to the various licence categories.

If the holder of a Category 'B' + code 73 type (Tricycle) now wishes to ride a Category 'AM', 'A1', A2 or 'A' in either manual or automatic then the holder must also complete the progression module on the new vehicle type.

For safety reasons, there are limits to the number of learners a trainer can work with at any one time:

- In the classroom, there is a maximum of 12 learners to one trainer.
- On the compound, there is a maximum of two learners to one trainer.
- On the road, there is a maximum of two learners to one trainer.

## Choosing your bike and equipment

Your bike and other equipment should be 'fit for purpose'. Look for the appropriate quality mark before you buy. Discuss your needs with your IBT trainer or a motorcycle dealer so that you get the gear that suits your needs. Personal protective equipment (PPE) means appropriate clothing and a secure helmet. Choose gear that is bright in colour, practical to wear and the correct size for you. A loose or un-fastened helmet can be extremely dangerous. Buy only from a trusted dealer and never buy or wear a second-hand helmet. For some useful advice on PPE for motorcyclists, see Rules for motorcyclists in the Rules of the Road.

There are rules about what type of motorcycle is acceptable for training purposes and for use on your Practical driving test. Consult your IBT trainer or visit [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) for further details.

## Getting the most from your training

When you contact a IBT trainer, ask their advice on how best to prepare for the course. You should also familiarise yourself with the following booklets:

- The Rules of The Road
- 'Learning to Ride a Motorcycle'
- Essential Skills – the official motorcycling manual.

You can download a copy of 'This is Your Bike' and the 'Rules of the Road' from the RSA website. The other two books are available in most good book shops.

‘Learning to Ride a Motorcycle’ is available from [www.theorytest.ie](http://www.theorytest.ie) or your IBT trainer. Before you attend your first training session, make sure you have everything you need. Your trainer will check your learner permit, insurance (if you need it for the on-road module) and the condition of your own PPE. If they are not satisfied about any of these, you may not be able to go ahead with your training as planned. Apart from wasting your own time, you may have to pay for the missed session.

The trainer will normally begin the course by registering learners and checking their Learner permits. They will then set out the aims of the training and any ‘housekeeping’ rules about things such as asking questions and break times. Your trainer will want to be satisfied that your motorcycle and protective gear are both roadworthy and serviceable and that you yourself are fit to ride. You will be asked to complete a declaration on each training day. If you are progressing along the licence categories please check to make sure you are entitled to progress in accordance with the rules on progression visit [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) for further details.

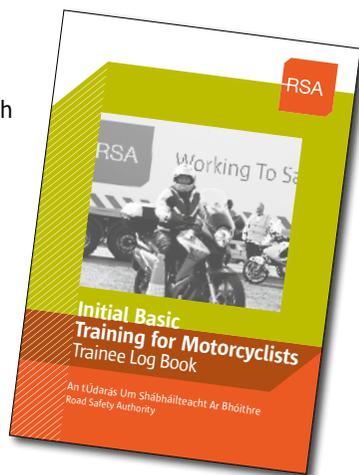
Pay attention to your trainer and the other learners. Take part in discussions – everyone has something to offer; you will help others to benefit from your experience as well as learn from theirs. You should find the course challenging as well as enjoyable. Those learner riders who have undertaken IBT said that they enjoyed the training and the contact with other like-minded people who wanted to learn to ride.

## Your log book

At your first session, your trainer must issue you with a personal log book. As you complete each module, your trainer will sign off and record this in your log book. Take care of your log book – keep it safe and bring it along with you to each training session so that your trainer can update it. If you lose it you will have to pay a fee to get a replacement from your trainer.

It is your responsibility to have your log book updated. If you switch to another trainer, they will only be able to certify Modules you have completed with them.

Take the time to complete the self analysis sections of your logbook. By doing this you will help consolidate your learning and help your trainer to deal with





driving licence (full licence) under progressive access rules for the relevant licence category, or (b) make an application for a (driving test) for the relevant licence category. Any subsequent such application must be accompanied by a valid Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of IBT.

Following the expiry of a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of IBT it will be necessary to successfully complete additional IBT training in order to obtain a further certificate.

Note: If the Certificate is within 5 years of the expiry date then a Module 5 will need to be completed, if the Certificate is over 5 years of the expiry date then Modules 1, 3 & 5 will need to be completed again. Visit [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) for further details.

## After your training

When you have successfully completed the course you will be able to ride on a public road without being supervised by an IBT trainer. This does not mean that you are finished learning – it just allows you to continue learning the safe practice of what you have learnt during motorcycle IBT will help you to develop your skills. You should practise these every time you ride your bike.

## If you have applied for a practical driving test

To prepare for your driving test, stay in a learning frame of mind as you practise for it. Your driving test may require you to do some aspects of practical riding that are not part of the standard motorcycle IBT course, such as overtaking and the avoidance manoeuvre. You can do further training with your IBT trainer or any other motorcycle approved driving instructor (ADI). You should aim to complete your motorcycle training and pass your driving test whilst your IBT certificate is still valid.

Get as much practice as you can on different road types and conditions, but not on motorways unless you hold a full driving licence for the category of Motorcycle being used. Involve your trainer and/or other qualified riders who can help you learn. A mix of formal and informal training is a good way to develop your riding skills and risk awareness. Discuss the risks and how to reduce them with friends and other qualified riders to help you learn more quickly and effectively. Finally, remember that motorcycle riding can be fun and your IBT training will help you to have many years of safe and enjoyable use of your motorbike.

## The IBT motorcycle training modules

**Module 1** has six objectives. You will need at least three hours to achieve them  
They cover:

1. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Introduction to motorcycle controls
3. Technical checks
4. Placing motorcycle on and off the stands
5. Walking alongside the motorcycle
6. How to start and stop the engine (including precautions for mounting and dismounting)

**Module 2** focuses on practical skills and will take place solely in the off-road training area. It will be the first time in the training programme that you will ride your motorcycle. This module will take at least five hours to complete and has 10 objectives:

1. Moving off and stopping (includes on site riding)
2. Use of brakes
3. Use of gears
4. Slow riding
5. Figure of eight exercise
6. U-turn exercise
7. Slalom exercise
8. Rear observations and mirrorwork
9. Turning left and right
10. Emergency adjustment of speed - Emergency Stop

**Module 3** focuses on theory and practical skills and will take place in the classroom and the off-road training area. It will take at least two hours to complete and has ten objectives:

They cover:

1. Legal requirements
2. Rules of the road
3. Being seen
4. Road surfaces
5. Road and lane position
6. Rear observations and mirrors
7. Speed
8. Anticipation and reaction including dealing with Emergency service vehicles.
9. Weather conditions (including Modal choices and Route Planning)
10. Fatigue

**Module 4** takes place on the road. Your instructor will use a radio head-set to keep in contact with you during this module. He/she will provide the radio equipment but you must provide your own PPE if not provided by your instructor. Check with your instructor for more details. This module will take at least six hours to complete and has eight objectives:

1. Gradients
2. Junctions
3. Traffic lights
4. Roundabouts
5. Safe distance
6. Anticipation and reaction to hazards including dealing with emergency service vehicles
7. Pedestrian & rail crossings (rail where possible)
8. Bends

## Module 5 (Progression Module)

This module includes topics previously covered during Modules 2 & 4 with some additional new content to allow 'progression' the training needs to be undertaken on the new vehicle type, you wish to change to, e.g. from 'automatic' to 'manual'. This progression Module will facilitate changes in your entitlements without you having to undergo the full programme again and in limited circumstances without you having to undergo a practical driving test. For Direct access purposes to Category 'A' or 'A2' motorcycles, you will need 13 hours to complete this module. Where IBT has already been completed and you are availing of 'progressive access' then you will need 11 hours to complete this module.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Moving off and stopping                          | 13. Carrying pillion Passengers   |
| 2. Use of brakes                                    | 14. Using a Sidecar /<br>towing a Trailer   |
| 3. Use of gears                                     | 15. Gradients   |
| 4. Slow riding exercise                             | 16. Junctions   |
| 5. Figure of eight exercise                         | 17. Traffic lights  |
| 6. U-turn exercise                                  | 18. Roundabouts   |
| 7. Slalom exercise                                  | 19. Safe distance   |
| 8. Rear observation and<br>mirror work              | 20. Anticipation and reaction to<br>hazards including dealing with<br>Emergency service vehicles. |
| 9. Turning left and right                           | 21. Pedestrian & rail crossings<br>(rail where possible)  |
| 10. Obstacle Avoidance                              | 22. Bends   |
| 11. Emergency adjustment of<br>speed Emergency Stop | 23. Socially responsible<br>Riding / driving  |
| 12. Overtaking                                      |   |

During the on road parts of this module your trainer will be in radio link with you from his/her own motorcycle on a public road. They will supply the radios. Some objectives will be in a classroom and others in an off-road RSA-approved IBT Centre.

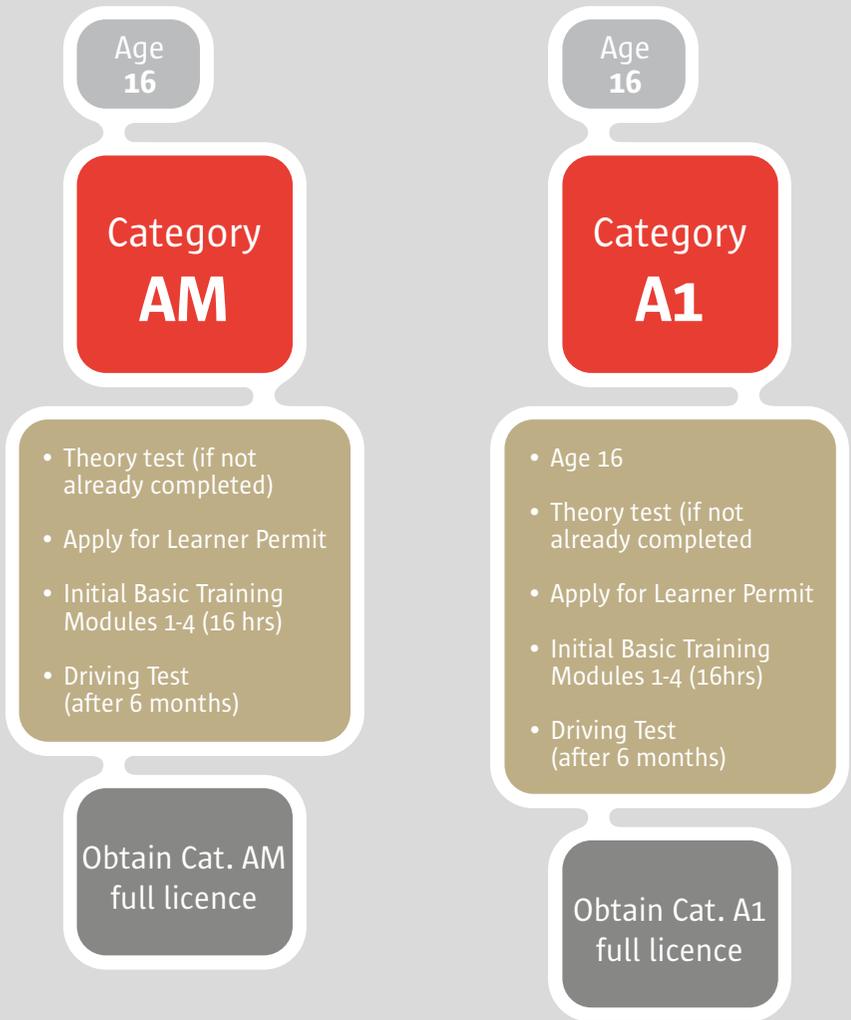
Please note: You must wear the appropriate PPE throughout all of your IBT training

## If you are concerned about your training or trainer

If for any reason you are not happy with your training or have concerns about how you are progressing, please take this up in the first place with your trainer. They will probably be able to resolve any difficulties with you. If that is not possible, please contact the Driver Education Section of the Road Safety Authority at [adi@rsa.ie](mailto:adi@rsa.ie).

Your IBT trainer will guide you through the various learning points and other related motorcycling issues as appropriate.





**NOTE:** The chart above sets out the various ‘Direct Access’ options for each category of Motorcycle Licence. These examples assume that the holder has not previously held a motorcycle licence. The chart on the next page sets out the various ‘progressive access’ options for those that may have previously held a motorcycle licence in either A1, or A2.

# Getting a driving licence through **Direct Access**

Age  
18

Category  
**A2**

- Age 18
- Theory test (if not already completed)
- Apply for Learner Permit
- Initial Basic Training Modules 1, 3 and 5 inclusive on A2 bike. If already completed for AM or A1 do progression module 5 IBT on A2 machine with a cylinder capacity of at least 395cc
- Pass driving test (after 6 months)

Obtain Cat. A2  
full licence

Age  
24  
and over

Category  
**A**

- Age 24
- Theory test (if not already completed)
- Apply for Learner Permit in Category A
- Initial Basic Training Modules 1, 3 & 5 on a motorcycle with a cylinder capacity of at least 595cc and an unladen mass of at least 175kg.
- Driving Test (after 6 months)

Obtain Cat. A  
full licence

## Progression from A1 to A2

### In all cases:

- Min Age: 18yrs
- Apply for Learner Permit in **Category A2** after holding a full **Category A1** driving licence for a minimum of two years.
- Complete Progression Module (Module 5) on an **A2** type motorcycle (11hrs) with a cylinder capacity of at least 395cc
- Having completed **Module 5** you may then obtain your full **Category A2** type driving licence. Alternatively you may choose to undergo and pass a practical driving test in **Category A2** which leaves you with the options set out below;

## Options

1. If you chose to undergo and pass the practical driving test on a **Category A2** type motorcycle and later on you choose to progress to a **Category A** type motorcycle (having held your **Category A2** driving licence for 2 years). You may proceed without the need to undergo a practical driving test on a **Category A** type motorcycle.
2. If you had not taken and passed a practical driving test to obtain your **Category A2** driving licence (that is, you obtained it by undergoing a progression module) you may not progress on without passing a practical driving test for a **Category A** type driving licence. In order to progress to a **Category A**, you must hold your **Category A2** type driving licence for at least two years, undergo the progression module (module 5) and pass a practical driving test on the **Category A** type motorcycle.

### Notes

- If you are aged 24 yrs or over you may opt for the **Category A** 'Direct Access' route without the need to obtain a **Category A2** driving licence and wait the two years.

# driving licence through **Progressive** access

## Progression from A2 to A

### In all cases:

- Min Age: 20yrs
- Apply for Learner Permit in **Category A**
- Complete Progression Module (Module 5) on an **A** type motorcycle (11hrs)
- Must have held **Category A2** driving licence for a minimum of 2 years. (or be at least 24 years of age and opt for Direct Access to **Category A**)

## Options

1. If you obtained your **Category A2** driving licence by passing your practical driving test between **Categories A1** and **A2** you may then complete a Progression Module with an IBT trainer to obtain a full **Category A** licence without the need without the need to undergo a further practical driving test.
2. If you obtained your **Category A2** driving licence completing the progression module from **A1** to **A2** you must then apply for and pass a practical driving test for your **Category A** driving licence

### Notes

- If you are aged 24 yrs or over you may opt for the **Category A** Direct Access route, without the need to obtain a **Category A2** driving licence and wait the required two years.

The above notes set out options for progression for those who have previously held the relevant category of full driving licence for the required length of time. If your situation is not set out above please contact your local IBT trainer or the Road Safety Authority (Tel:096 25000) for further information.

## EXAMPLES OF PROGRESSION FOR THOSE WITH A CATEGORY A LEARNER PERMIT OR DRIVING LICENCE

### THERE ARE TWO BASIC RULES FOR THOSE WISHING TO AVAIL OF THE 'PROGRESSION' ROUTE;

- (1) must have served two years on the immediate lower category &
- (2) have undertaken the required IBT training.

When wishing to progress if 'NO' IBT had ever been completed then IBT Modules 1,3 and 5 will need to be completed on the larger type motorcycle or

If IBT had been previously completed then it is IBT Module 5 on the larger type motorcycle

For those wishing to take the 'Direct Access route; having held a full licence in another category;

If IBT had been completed previously then IBT module 5 needs to be undertaken on the larger motorcycle or

If no IBT had been previously undertaken then it is Module 1,3 and 5

#### NOTE

In either case the following applies;

1. The Motorcycle must have an unladen mass of at least 175Kg
2. Where an internal combustion engine is used, the engine must be at least 595cc.
3. Where the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor the minimum power output is 0.25 kw/kg

Please note that the motorcycle used for either IBT training or driving test purposes in **Category A**, must have a minimum power output of 50 KW. The minimum power output for a Category A2 type vehicle used for training or the practical driving test is 20kW.







# Working to Save Lives

**Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre**  
Road Safety Authority

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