

Mopeds and power-assisted pedal cycles

Purpose

To advise suppliers, owners and users of mopeds and power-assisted pedal cycles of the requirements for their construction, registration and use.

Moped

A moped is a small motor cycle that:

- Has a piston engine with a capacity not exceeding 50 ml, or an alternative power source, eg electric motor.
- Has a maximum speed not exceeding 50 km/h.
- May be either two-wheeled or three-wheeled.
- May be pedal assisted (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF MOPEDS



A. Pedal-assisted mopeds



B. Non pedal-assisted moped

REGISTRATION

In New South Wales, mopeds are required to be registered and must meet the construction and equipment requirements for motor cycles as set out in the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 (the Regulation) including compliance with the applicable Australian Design Rules (ADRs), and be fitted with a compliance plate.

Riders of mopeds must obey the same traffic regulations as riders of motor cycles. They must hold a rider's licence and must wear an approved motor cycle safety helmet.

For further enquiries

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Power-assisted pedal cycle

A power-assisted pedal cycle is a cycle that:

- Is designed to be propelled primarily by human power; and
- Has one or more auxiliary propulsion motors attached that have a combined output of no more than 200 watts.

This means that the rider must be able to pedal the cycle; the motor is for assistance only.

A rider of a power-assisted pedal cycle does not have to hold a licence, however it is compulsory to wear an approved bicycle helmet and obey the same traffic laws as bicyclists.

FIGURE 2: TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF A POWER-ASSISTED PEDAL CYCLE



REGISTRATION

Registration of power-assisted pedal cycles is not required in NSW. Owners and users of power-assisted pedal cycles should be able to prove that the motor output is not more than 200 watts, and that the cycle's primary source of propulsion is human power. Pedal cycles fitted with a motor (or motors) that can be simply adjusted or modified to increase the power output above 200 watts should be avoided. If any such adjustment is made, the owner and user may be prosecuted for driving an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

A pedal cycle fitted with an auxiliary motor (or motors in combination) having an output exceeding 200 watts is considered to be a moped or motor cycle and the conditions specified for mopeds set out in the Regulation and ADRs apply.