

Mini Motos and Gopeds

Mini motos are miniature replicas of motorcycles and are powered by either petrol or electric motors. Whilst these bikes are sold as toys, they can reach speeds up to 60mph and accidents involving mini motos have already resulted in serious injuries and even death.

Mini motos are classified by law as motor vehicles, however they are NOT road legal due to a number of technical specifications. Even if converted for road use, these vehicles cannot be used on a public road unless they are taxed and insured, and the rider is aged 16/17 or over (dependant on engine size) has a licence and is wearing an approved crash helmet.

Gopeds, also known as buzz-boards and city bugs are a type of motorised scooter, which looks similar to a child's scooter but is fitted with an engine. Some are capable of speeds of up to 30 mph.

Gopeds are in the same vehicle category as mopeds, which means that anyone using them must comply with the exact same legislation and conditions as moped riders. Before a Goped can be used on the roads it must be registered with DVLA as a moped under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Riders must be over 16, hold a relevant driving licence and wear a crash helmet. It should be taxed, insured and hold a MOT certificate if it is more than three years old.

However that the majority of Gopeds are not road legal, as they do not comply with the Motor Vehicle Construction and Use Regulations requirements in respect of indicators, speedometer, brakes, horn etc.

Where can I use motor vehicles?

Scramble bikes, quad bikes, mini motos and Gopeds cannot be used on the road If they are not registered. They may only be used legally on private land, (including parks and forests), with the direct permission of the landowner. Stirling Council Countryside Service has not given anybody permission to use these types of vehicles on their land.

They cannot be used on a footpath or cycle routes under any circumstances.

What can happen if I ignore this?

There are several options open to the Police when these types of motor vehicles are being used illegally, dangerously or in a way likely to cause a nuisance to others:

- ❖ Riders can be prosecuted under the road traffic law and, if found guilty, fined and given points on their licence
- ❖ Once a warning has been issued the bike can be seized, and only reclaimed after paying a minimum fee of £105
- ❖ Illegal or nuisance use of these bikes can be used to provide evidence for anti social behaviour orders.

You are advised to make sure you have somewhere safe and legal to use them before you buy one.

Courtesy of Lothian and Borders Police