

Mopeds



MOPEDS

Moped Riding In South Carolina

The 1986 session of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina enacted a law regulating the licensing of moped operators. The regulations govern the equipment required and proper use of the moped. Following are excerpts from that law that help provide you with a basic understanding.

What Is A Moped?

A moped is a cycle with pedals or without pedals and with a motor of not more than fifty cubic centimeters. Its power will not exceed two brake horsepower and the motor is not capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed in excess of thirty miles an hour on level ground.

The power drive system must function directly or automatically without clutching or shifting after the engine is engaged.

MOPED STANDARD EQUIPMENT



Moped Equipment

1. Operable pedals if the moped is equipped with pedals.
2. At least one rearview mirror.
3. Operable running lights. Lights must be on whenever moped is in operation.
4. Brake lights activated when either brake is used.
5. Driver and passenger must ride upon permanent regular seats and not carry more persons than the moped is designed to carry.

The Moped Operator

To operate a moped on the public highways and streets, you must be at least 14 years of age, have a valid driver's license/ motorcycle license, a permit or a valid moped operator's license.

A person whose driver's license has been suspended for six months or less is not required to obtain a moped operator's license or possess a valid driver's license during the period of suspension when operating a moped.

No person may operate a moped at a speed in excess of twenty-five miles an hour. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, will be fined.

A person is eligible for a moped operator's license without regard to his eligibility for or the status of any other driver's license or permit. The Department may suspend, revoke, or cancel a moped operator's license only for violations committed while operating a moped. A moped operator's license may be suspended, revoked or cancelled in the same manner and upon the same grounds for which any other motor vehicle operator's license or permit may be suspended, revoked or cancelled.

Obtaining a Moped License

Documents required to obtain a moped license are the same as those needed for Class D, E, F and M. An applicant for a moped operator's license must successfully pass an eye examination and a test of the applicant's ability to read and understand highway traffic signs and knowledge of traffic laws. To prepare for this test, an applicant should read and understand the sections of this handbook pertaining to the Rules of the Road, Signs and Signals, Motorcycles, and the General Information.

The department may require further examination as it considers necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a moped on

the highways. A license will expire on the licensee's birthday every five years. It must be signed by the licensee and be in his/her possession when operating the moped.

Special Regulations

1. The Department may not issue a beginner's permit or special restricted license to any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of operating a moped on the public roads while under age, until that person is fifteen and one-half years of age.
2. The Department may suspend, revoke, or cancel a moped operator's license only for violations committed while operating a moped.
3. Any person who sells a moped must clearly and conspicuously label each moped with its specifications. Any seller who fails to label a moped as such is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.
4. The moped must have a permanent and regular seat attached. No moped may be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
5. It is unlawful for any person to sell a moped for use on the public highways and streets of this state or operate a moped on the streets of this state without at least one rearview mirror, operable running lights, and brake lights which are operable when either brake is deployed.
6. The operator of a moped must have the operating lights turned on at all times while the moped is in operation on the public highways.
7. It is unlawful for any person to modify or change the equipment of a moped so that the vehicle exceeds two brake horsepower and produces speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour on level ground.
8. Any person who sells, solicits, or advertises the sale of mopeds shall clearly and conspicuously label each moped with its specification, including, but not limited to, the brake horsepower of the motor and the maximum speed of the vehicle on level ground.

Any seller of mopeds who fails to label a moped or who knowingly labels a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle as a moped is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined. Each vehicle which is incorrectly labeled and each moped which is not labeled is a separate violation.



Safety

If you will be riding at night, you must have a light on the front and a rear tail light.

Mopeds do not have to undergo an annual inspection, but you should check them before every trip to make sure they are in good operating condition.

The law does require that moped operators under 21 years of age wear helmets, goggles or face shield. It would be an intelligent decision on your part to also wear protective clothing.

