



Traffic Services Section Michigan State Police Field Update #24

Providing Traffic Related Information and Services to Michigan Law Enforcement

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Motorcycle Helmets

The Traffic Services Section has recently updated the motorcycle helmet legality [web page](#). A new page entitled [How to Recognize a Novelty Helmet](#) has also been added with photographs and information to assist with making a reasonable determination whether or not a helmet is approved for use in Michigan. Several photographs from the new page appear below.

The Traffic Services Section is also in the process of collecting data on motorcycle traffic crash injuries and fatalities. Contact [Sgt. Steve Spink](#) at (517) 336-6685 for additional information on these studies.

Helmets are typically manufactured in three distinct styles.



Full Face



Open Face



Shorty

Unless modified, most full face and open face helmets are approved by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

It can be difficult, however, to recognize at first glance whether or not a "shorty" helmet is USDOT approved. The photos below illustrate some of the differences. [Additional information](#) is available on the new web page.

Examples of USDOT "Shorty" Style Helmets



Examples of a Typical Novelty Type Helmet



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[Grant Administration Unit](#)
[Section Commander](#)
[Speed Measurement Unit](#)

(517) 336-6338
(517) 336-6121
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