

2015

Michigan Motorcycle Laws

Guide for Motorcycle Operators

“Motorcycle” means every motor vehicle having a saddle or seat for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a tractor. **MCL 257.31.**

“Moped” means a 2- or 3-wheeled vehicle to which is equipped with a motor that does not exceed 100 cubic centimeters piston displacement, cannot propel the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour, and its power drive system does not require the operator to shift gears. **MCL 257.32b.**

Endorsements and Temporary Instruction Permits

Operating with a Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP). A person with a TIP may operate a motorcycle for 180 days and must:

- Carry the permit.
- Be under the constant visual supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator who is at least 18 years of age.
- Not operate the motorcycle at night.
- Not operate the motorcycle with a passenger.

A person shall not be eligible for more than two (2) TIPs in a 10-year period. **MCL 257.306(5).**

Motorcycle Endorsement. A person, before operating a motorcycle, other than an auticycle, upon a public street or highway, shall procure a motorcycle endorsement on his or her operator's or chauffeur's license. **MCL 257.312a(1).**

3-Wheeled Motorcycle. An endorsement issued to operate a 3-wheeled motorcycle is restricted to that operation and does not permit operation of a 2-wheeled motorcycle. **MCL 257.312b(3).**
*3-wheel License Restriction Code: 20

Civil Infractions Specific to Motorcycles

Parents or Guardians. The parent or guardian of a minor shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child to violate the laws applicable to motorcycles. **MCL 257.656.**

Helmet use; Motorcycle Operators – A motorcycle operator is required to wear an approved crash helmet unless he or she:

- Is at least 21 years old,
 - Has at least \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits insurance in effect, and
 - Has held a motorcycle endorsement for at least two years, or has passed an approved motorcycle safety course.
- MCL 257.658(5).**

Helmet use; Motorcycle Passengers - A motorcycle passenger is required to wear an approved crash helmet unless he or she:

- Is at least 21 years old, and
- Has at least \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits insurance in effect in addition to the insurance that is required of the motorcycle operator. **MCL 257.658(5).**

Helmet use; Moped - A moped operator less than 19 years of age shall wear a crash helmet. **MCL 257.658(4).**

Crash Helmet Standards – When required, all helmets must meet the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. **Mich. Admin. Code, R 28.951**

Seats and Foot Rests. A motorcycle shall be equipped with adequate seats and securely attached foot rests or pegs for each designated seating position. Unless unable to do so because of a permanent physical disability, a passenger shall not ride on a motorcycle unless his or her feet can rest on the foot rests or pegs. **MCL 257.658a(1).**

Handlebars of Motorcycle. A person shall not operate a motorcycle or moped equipped with handlebars that are higher than 15 inches from the lowest point of the undepressed saddle to the highest point of the handle grips. **MCL 257.661a.**

Clearance/ Marker lamps and reflectors; color.

(a) Those mounted on the front or on the side near the front of a vehicle shall display or reflect an amber color.

(b) Those mounted on the rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle shall display or reflect a red color.

(c) All lighting devices and reflectors mounted on the rear of any vehicle shall display or reflect a red color, except the stop light or other signal device, which may be red or amber, and except that the light illuminating the license plate shall be white.

MCL 257.689.

Rear stop lamps. A motorcycle or moped shall be required to have 1 rear stop lamp. **MCL 257.697b.**

Side, fender, running, courtesy, and backing lamps; Reflectors; Flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights; violation as civil infraction. A lamp or a part designed to be a reflector, if visible from the front, shall display or reflect a white or amber light; if visible from either side, shall display or reflect an amber or red light; and if visible from the rear, shall display or reflect a red light, except as otherwise provided by law. **MCL 257.698(4).**

Other Lighting and Equipment

Registration (License) Plate.	MCL257.225.
Head lamps.	MCL257.685.
Spot lamps and fog lamps.	MCL257.696.
Brake equipment.	MCL257.705.
Horn or other warning device.	MCL257.706.
Muffler, engine, and exhaust system.	MCL257.707.
Noise limitations; prohibitions.	MCL257.707c.
Mirrors.	MCL257.708.
Windshields, goggles, glasses, or shields.	MCL257.708a.
Tires.	MCL257.710.

General “Rules of the Road”

Limited Access Highways.	MCL 257.679a.
Fail to Yield Right-of-Way.	MCL 257.649.
Fail to Yield- Left at Intersection.	MCL 257.650.
Fail to Stop - Leaving Private Drive.	MCL 257.662.
Disobey Stop, Yield, or Merge Sign.	MCL 257.671.
Disobey Traffic Signal.	MCL 257.612.
	MCL 257.614.
Riding on Seat of Motorcycle.	MCL 257.658(1).
Multiple Riders.	MCL 257.658(2).
Carrying Packages.	MCL 257.661.
OWI.	MCL 257.625.
Reckless Driving.	MCL 257.626.
Drag Racing.	MCL 257.626a.
Careless Driving.	MCL 257.626b.
Speeding.	MCL 257.627.
Impeding Traffic.	MCL 257.676b.

