

Section One **Motorcycle Rider Licensing**

Motorcycling is a unique experience. Compared to a car, you don't sit in a motorcycle, you become part of it. Not as a passive driver, but as an active rider, arcing into a string of smooth corners, playing along with the rhythm of the road; shifting, accelerating and braking with precision. Whether you ride to-and-from work or prefer the camaraderie of a group ride on the weekend, motorcycling engages all your senses and creates an invigorating sense of freedom.

Along with that freedom, comes responsibility. All states require some form of license endorsement demonstrating you possess a minimum level of skill and knowledge. Take your time learning how to operate your motorcycle and get plenty of riding experience. Find an experienced and responsible motorcyclist to mentor your learning. This mentoring and riding experience will prepare you for handling today's traffic environment



This Section Covers

- The Michigan Rider Education Program (Mi-REP)
- Michigan Laws - Motorcycle Operation
- Alcohol and the Law
- Drugs and the Law
- Michigan Laws
- Types of Motorcycle Endorsement or Permits
- Applying for a Motorcycle Endorsement
- Motorcycle Registration Requirements
- General Driver's License Renewal Information

and reduce the potential for a crash. All riders are encouraged to attend an entry-level rider education course which provides the information and hands-on training required to obtain a motorcycle endorsement. You'll learn how to improve your riding skills and mental strategies, so you can be a safer, more alert rider. This booklet and other motorcycle publications can help prepare you to be successful.

The Michigan Rider Education Program

Administering the Michigan Rider Education Program (Mi-REP) is an important aspect of the Michigan Department of State's traffic safety mission. Michigan's program uses safety standards established by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) to ensure consistent and comprehensive training. All motorcycle riders must complete a motorcycle rider education class or pass a knowledge test and Rider Skills Test in order to obtain a motorcycle endorsement, which is required to legally ride on public streets and highways. Successful completion of an approved rider education course allows you to waive the Rider Skills Test requirement and the Secretary of State office knowledge test. Courses are designed for novices and experienced riders.

The Mi-REP helps riders lay the foundation for the good judgment,



www.michigan.gov/motorcycling

skills and experience which are required for operating a motorcycle safely. Returning or experienced riders can also benefit from training by renewing or sharpening the skills necessary for safe motorcycling. Some insurers offer discounts on motorcycle insurance premiums for riders who complete these courses. Visit www.michigan.gov/motorcycling to find a motorcycle rider education course near you.

Reciprocity for Out-of-State Motorcycle Rider Training Programs

Michigan riders applying for their motorcycle endorsement, that have completed a training course outside of Michigan, must submit their out-of-state motorcycle rider safety completion card to the Secretary of State's Office before an endorsement can be issued. The requirement to pass a motorcycle Rider Skills Test or motorcycle rider education course may be waived in these cases. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/Mi-REP.

Accommodations for People with Disabilities and Non-Native Speakers

The Mi-REP and its motorcycle rider education training sponsors are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act. If you need accommodation or have been denied services, call 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424). Hearing impaired customers should contact the Michigan Relay Service at 711 or the Michigan Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing at 313-437-7035 or doddbhh@michigan.gov. A deaf or hard of hearing individual may use a sign language interpreter during a rider education course. The Department of State Information Center can provide a list of interpreters if you call 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).

A student may bring a foreign language interpreter to translate instruction in the classroom and on the range. All interpreters must be at least 16 years old. The interpreter

must present a driver's license or other photo identification to the RiderCoach at the training site. The RiderCoach must record the interpreter's name and identification information.

Testing Improprieties

Michigan law mandates that:

- Any Third-Party Testing Organization or motorcycle rider education provider who intentionally misrepresents a riding skills test by omitting any testing requirement or procedure, or participates in any illegal activity related to driver licensing, is subject to severe penalties. Those include loss of the testing authorization, criminal prosecution and restitution for monetary damages to the test applicant, the department or both.
- Any person, including the examiner or applicant, who knowingly encourages, facilitates or participates in improper, illegal or fraudulent driver testing is also subject to criminal prosecution.
- Any person found to have been improperly, illegally or fraudulently tested must take the appropriate tests again. The fee for retesting may be charged to the applicant.
- Improper, fraudulent or unlawful driver's license tests result in illegal license applications.

Under the Michigan Vehicle Code (Public Act 300 of 1949), it is a felony:

- To make a false certification regarding any driver's license application.
- To bribe or attempt to corrupt a person or agency that conducts a driving test with the intent to influence the opinion or decision of the tester.
- For an examining officer who conducts a driving test under an agreement entered into with the Department of State to vary from, shorten or in any other way change the method or examination criteria prescribed under that agreement.

- For a person to forge, counterfeit or alter a driving test certification issued by a designated examining officer.

A felony committed under these laws is punishable by one to five years in prison and a maximum \$5,000 fine for the first offense. Subsequent convictions result in additional penalties.

Business Requirements for Rider Education Providers

Rider education providers must adhere to certain business practices and standards established by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and Mi-REP. Rider education providers must:

- Be approved by the department before services are offered.
- Employ only Motorcycle Safety Foundation-certified RiderCoaches.
- Maintain an established place of business and obtain written permission to use all approved test sites.
- Publish a printed fee and refund policy and provide receipts. Test fees are set by state law for public providers and by the provider for private providers.
- Maintain liability insurance.

Business Requirements for Third-Party Testing Organizations

Third-Party Testing Organizations must adhere to certain business practices and administer driving skills tests according to established standards and procedures contained in a formal, legal agreement with the department. Among many contract requirements, Third-Party Testing Organizations must:

- Be approved by the department before testing services are offered.
- Maintain an established place of business and obtain written permission to use all approved test sites.
- Respond to all driver-testing service inquiries by the next business day.

- Publish a printed fee and refund policy and provide receipts. Test fees are set by the Third-Party Testing Organization and are not regulated by law.
- Maintain a surety bond.
- Ensure examiners attend and pass all required training and obtain department authorization before administering tests.

Reporting Improper, Illegal or Fraudulent Test Activities

If you are aware of any improper, illegal or fraudulent testing activities, report them immediately to the Department of State. Please be sure to include the names of the people and organizations involved, the date of the incident and a detailed description of the activities observed or discussed. All legitimate reports will be investigated. A written statement may be required. This information should be submitted to the:

Michigan Department of State
 Driver Programs Division
 Richard H. Austin Building
 430 W. Allegan St., 3rd Floor
 Lansing, MI 48918
 Phone 517-241-6850
 Fax 517-373-0964
 ThirdPartyTesting@Michigan.gov

Michigan Laws Regarding Motorcycle Operation

Before traveling, make sure you are aware of any state laws that affect the operation of a motorcycle. Michigan has several laws concerning registration, motorcycle endorsements and safe riding equipment – as well as traffic laws – that motorcyclists are required to obey. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) urges all motorcycle operators and passengers to wear a U.S. DOT-approved helmet at all times when riding. However, under Michigan law, helmet use is not mandatory in some situations.

In Michigan, a helmet is required if you are:

- Taking a state-approved motorcycle rider education course.
(www.michigan.gov/motorcycling)
- Taking a state-approved Rider Skills Test.
(www.Michigan.gov/motorcycletest)
- Under the age of 21.
- Age 21 or older and:
 - Have had your motorcycle endorsement (CY) for **less than two years OR have not passed a state-approved motorcycle rider education course.**
 - Do not have at least \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits. (A motorcycle operator with a rider must have not less than \$20,000 per person per occurrence.)

Types of Two- and Three-Wheeled Vehicles

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

MCL 257.31.

“Moped” means a two- or three-wheeled vehicle that 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 on a level surface, and its power drive system does not require the operator to shift gears. MCL 257.32b.

“Autocycle” means an enclosed motorcycle that is equipped with safety belts, roll bar, windshield, wipers, steering wheel and equipment otherwise required on a motorcycle, and has not more than three wheels in contact with the roadway at any one time. MCL 257.25a.

Street-Legal Motorcycle

At minimum, your street-legal motorcycle should have:

Registration [license] plate; attachment to vehicle; legibility...

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this

subsection and subsection (6), a registration plate issued for a vehicle shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle . . .

(2) A registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which the plate is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. The plate shall be attached at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground, measured from the bottom of the plate, in a place and position that is clearly visible. The plate shall be maintained free from foreign materials that obscure or partially obscure the registration information and in a clearly legible condition . . .

MCL 257.225(1)(2).

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.

Head lamps; number; modulator; height . . .

(2) A motorcycle or moped shall be equipped with at least 1 (one) and not more than 2 (two) head lamps that comply with this chapter.

(3) A motorcycle or moped head lamp may be wired or equipped to allow either its upper beam or its lower beam, but not both, to modulate from a higher intensity to a lower intensity. A head lamp modulator installed on a motorcycle or moped with two head lamps shall be wired in a manner to prevent the head lamps from modulating at different rates or not in synchronization with each other. A head lamp modulator installed on a motorcycle or moped shall meet the standards prescribed in 49 CFR 571.108.

(4) Every head lamp upon a motor vehicle shall be located at a height measured from the center of the head lamp of not more than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands.

MCL 257.685(2)(3)(4).

Clearance and 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.

Spot lamps; fog lamps.

(a) . . . a motorcycle shall not be equipped with more than 1 (one) spot lamp, and every lighted spot lamp shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the beam will be directed into the eyes of the approaching driver. Spot lamps may not emit other than either a white or amber light.

(b) A motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than 2 (two) fog lamps mounted on the front at a height of not less than 12 inches nor more than 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands.

MCL 257.696.

Rear stop lamps.

. . . A motorcycle or moped shall be required to have 1 (one) rear stop lamp.

MCL 257.697b.

Side cowl or fender lamps; running board courtesy lamp; backing lights; lamp or reflector; flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights . . . violation as civil infraction.

(4) . . . 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).

Brake equipment.

(b) A motorcycle or moped when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with at least 2 (two) brakes, 1 (one) on the front wheel and 1 (one) on the rear wheel, that may be operated by hand or foot . . .

MCL 257.705(1)(b).

Horn or other warning device. . .

(a) . . . a motorcycle or moped, when operated upon a highway, shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but a horn or other warning device shall not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle . . .

MCL 257.706(a).

Muffler, engine . . . and exhaust system . . .

(1) . . . a motorcycle or moped shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke. A person shall not remove, destroy or damage any of the baffles contained in the muffler, nor shall a person use a muffler cutout, bypass or similar device upon a motorcycle or moped on a highway or street . . .

MCL 257.707(1).

Noise limitations; prohibitions.

(1) After April 1, 1978, a motor vehicle shall not be operated or driven on a highway or street if the motor vehicle produces total noise exceeding one of the following limits at a distance of 50 feet except as provided in subdivision (b)(iii) . . .

(b) A motorcycle or a moped:

(i) 86 DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is greater than 35 miles per hour.

(ii) 82 DBA if the maximum lawful speed on the highway or street is not more than 35 miles per hour.

(iii) 95 DBA under stationary run-up test at 75 inches . . .

MCL 257.707c(1)(b)(i)(ii)(iii).

257.707a. . .

(b) “Decibels on the a-weighted network” or “DBA” means decibels measured on the a-weighted network of a sound level meter, as specified in American National Standards Institute standard S 1.4-1971.

MCL 257.707(a).

Mirrors.

. . . All motor vehicles shall be equipped with an outside rearview mirror on the driver’s side, which shall be positioned to give the driver a rear viewing angle from the driver’s side of the vehicle. . . Rearview mirrors may be positioned on the helmet or visor worn by the operator of a motorcycle if the helmet is securely attached to the head of the operator. . .

MCL 257.708.

Tires. . .

(f) A person shall not operate a vehicle on a highway when a tire in use on that vehicle is unsafe as provided in subsection (h).

(h) A tire is unsafe if it is in any of the following conditions:

(i) Has a part of the belting material, tire cords, or plys exposed.

(ii) Has evidence of cord or tread separations.

(iii) Is worn to or below the minimum tread level in two or more adjacent major grooves at three or more locations spaced around the circumference of the tire. Minimum allowable tread levels are as follows:

Motorcycles and moped.....1/32 inch front and rear

(iv) Has a marking “not for highway use,” “for racing purposes only,” “for farm use only,” or “unsafe for highway use.”

(v) Has been regrooved or recut below the original tread design depth except in the case of special purpose designed tires having extra undertread rubber provided for this purpose and identified as those tires . . .

MCL 257.710(f)(h)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v).

Alcohol and the Law

Drinking and Driving in Michigan

Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated MCL 257.625 [Excerpt]

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle in Michigan:

- While intoxicated or impaired by alcohol, illegal drugs and certain prescribed medications.
- With a Bodily Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 or greater (operating while intoxicated) or with a BAC of 0.17 or greater (high BAC).
- With the presence of a Schedule 1 drug or cocaine. Included in this group are marijuana, Ecstasy, hallucinogens, designer amphetamines and heroin.

Drunken drivers face swift and tough action under Michigan’s drunken driving laws. The laws:

- Require courts to decide drunken driving cases within 77 days after an arrest.
- Require a six-month driver’s license suspension, even for a first conviction. Drivers may be eligible to receive a restricted license after serving 30 days of the suspension.
- Require five days to one year of jail time, 30 to 90 days of community service or both, for a second conviction of drunken driving.
- Include a felony for a conviction for drunken driving that causes death.
- Include a felony for a conviction for drunken driving that causes a serious injury to another.
- Require fines for a conviction of driving while a driver’s license is suspended or revoked of up to \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for an additional offense.
- Do not allow hardship appeals for habitual alcohol offenders.
- Require a \$125 reinstatement fee if your driver’s license was suspended, revoked or restricted.

Drugs and the Law

Marijuana and Motorcycle Operation

Marijuana is gaining acceptance as having legitimate medicinal applications and as a recreational drug in the United States, as evidenced by recent trends in state laws permitting its use. Even if marijuana is legal for medicinal or recreational use in the state in which you are riding, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana is not legal, and it is risky because the drug can distort your perception of space, time and speed. This is especially critical for motorcycle riders, who must continually make detailed assessments of complex traffic situations and make split-second decisions requiring precise rider input to navigate safely and maintain an adequate safety margin.

States are beginning to set marijuana impairment limits based on blood content levels of marijuana's primary psychoactive ingredient, THC. However, compared to alcohol and BAC level, it is difficult to determine the relationship between the amount of marijuana ingested and the resulting THC level in the blood. Complicating factors include marijuana's potency, which is highly variable, and ingestion method, which has significant bearing on the onset and duration of impairment. When marijuana is smoked, its effects generally begin within a few minutes and can last from 2 to 4 hours. But when marijuana is eaten, the onset of effects could be delayed for more than an hour and the duration of the "high" could be more than 6 hours.

Be safe. Do not operate your motorcycle or any motor vehicle if you are impaired by marijuana, and find alternate transportation if you are planning to be under the influence of marijuana at your destination. Just as with alcohol, riders impaired by marijuana can be convicted of riding under the influence, and be subjected to similar harsh penalties.

Michigan Laws

For information about all of Michigan's compiled laws, visit www.legislature.mi.gov

Types of Endorsements and Permits

Motorcycle Temporary Instruction Permit

The intention of the motorcycle Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP) is to give new riders an opportunity to practice riding on public roads under the constant supervision of an experienced motorcyclist before taking the motorcycle Rider Skills Test. The TIP is simply a transitory tool used to obtain the Michigan motorcycle endorsement. A TIP is valid for 180 days and is required for the Rider Skills Test.

To obtain a motorcycle TIP you must:

- Be at least age 16. Teens ages 16-17 must have a valid Level 2 or Level 3 Graduated Driver License and present proof of enrollment in, or completion of, an approved motorcycle rider education course. A parent's signature is required for anyone under age 18 wishing to obtain a motorcycle TIP unless the applicant is an emancipated minor.
- Hold a valid Michigan driver's license.
- Pass the vision and motorcycle knowledge tests.
- Pay the TIP fee.

Operating with a Temporary Instruction Permit

A Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP) allows you to legally operate a motorcycle for 180 days. A TIP requires that you:

- Carry the permit with you when riding.
- Ride under the constant visual supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator who is at least 18 years old.
- Ride only during the day – nighttime riding is not permitted on a TIP.
- Do not carry any passengers.

Only two motorcycle TIPs will be issued to you during a 10-year period. [MCL 257.306(5).] If your second TIP has expired or if you have failed two motorcycle Rider Skills Tests, you must pass a motorcycle rider education course to obtain your endorsement.

Motorcycle Endorsement



(1) 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. . . .

(4) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as follows:

(a) For a first violation, by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

(b) For a violation that occurs after a prior conviction, by imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both. MCL 257.312a.

In addition to the penalties outlined in the law, your motorcycle can be towed and impounded. Let's face it, you're **unendorsed** and you've just been pulled over by a law enforcement officer. After the traffic stop, you can't legally ride your motorcycle home, and parking it on the roadside until you can make arrangements to have it picked up leaves your bike vulnerable to theft or damage. Towing and impounding your bike is a possible outcome if you are caught riding unendorsed.



Three-Wheel Motorcycle Endorsement

An endorsement issued to operate a three-wheel motorcycle, other than an auticycle, is restricted to that operation and does not permit operation of a two-wheel motorcycle. MCL 257.312b (3).

*Three-wheel License Restriction Code: 20



Applying for a Motorcycle Endorsement

To operate a motorcycle on public roads, you must possess a valid Michigan driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. The cost of the motorcycle endorsement is added to the regular driver's license fee. A motorcycle endorsement may be obtained by either successfully completing a motorcycle rider education course or a Rider Skills Test (which includes a knowledge test given at a Secretary of State office). The requirements for obtaining a motorcycle endorsement differ for teens and adults.

- www.Michigan.gov/motorcycling to find a motorcycle rider education course.
- www.Michigan.gov/motorcycletest to find a Third-Party Testing Organization that offers the Rider Skills Test.

Teens

To apply for a motorcycle endorsement, you must be at least 16 and:

- Possess a valid Level 2 or Level 3 Graduated Driver License.
- Successfully complete an approved motorcycle rider education course.
- Visit a Secretary of State office and present the motorcycle rider education course completion certificate and pass the vision test. Your parent or legal guardians' signature is required if you are under age 18.

Adults

To obtain a motorcycle endorsement by taking a motorcycle rider education course, you must:

- Successfully pass a motorcycle rider education course.
- Present your driver's license and certificate of course completion to a Secretary of State clerk.

- Pass the vision test.
- Pay the motorcycle endorsement fee.

To obtain a motorcycle endorsement by taking the Rider Skills Test offered through a Third-Party Testing Organization, you must:

- Be at least age 18.
- Possess a valid driver's license.
- Pass the written knowledge test and vision test administered at a Secretary of State office.
- Obtain a motorcycle Temporary Instruction Permit and practice riding under the supervision of an endorsed motorcycle rider for up to 180 days. (Only two TIPs will be issued in a 10-year period.)
- Pass the Rider Skills Test given by a Third-Party Testing Organization approved by the Department of State.
- Visit a Secretary of State office and present your Rider Skills Test certificate of completion, your motorcycle TIP and your driver's license, and pay the motorcycle endorsement fee.

You will be required to take a rider education course if you fail the motorcycle Rider Skills Test twice.

Motorcycle Rider Education Courses

Motorcycle rider education courses are offered by private and public sponsors statewide throughout the motorcycling season. Fees will vary, depending on the provider. Mi-REP offers several motorcycle rider education courses for different skill levels. All motorcycle rider education courses are taught by certified RiderCoaches.

- **A Basic Rider Course (BRC)**, Classroom instruction in addition to practice time using training motorcycles on a motorcycle range is provided in the BRC. BRC riders finish the three-day course by taking a written knowledge test and a riding skills test on the practice range. You must pass both the knowledge and riding skills tests to obtain a BRC certificate of completion. Present the BRC certificate of completion and your driver's license when applying for the endorsement at a Secretary

of State office. You do not need to own a motorcycle to take a BRC.

- **3-Wheel Basic Rider Course (3WBRC)**, The 3-Wheel Basic Rider Course is the best place for motorcyclists to learn about riding a three-wheel motorcycle. The course includes four hours of classroom activities and up to eight hours of on-cycle riding exercises. Students must pass a written knowledge test and a skills test as part of the requirements to successfully complete the course. Students who obtain their certificate of course completion may qualify for a discount on their insurance. The three-wheeled vehicle endorsement cannot be used to operate a two-wheeled motorcycle. Most courses require students to have their own three-wheeled vehicle and insurance; check with the provider before enrolling in a class. The motorcycle must be properly titled and registered, display a valid license plate and pass a safety inspection.
- **Returning Rider Basic Rider Course (RRBRC)**, Successful completion of this course allows you to go to the Secretary of State office to obtain a motorcycle endorsement in lieu of taking a Rider Skills Test. This one-day program includes elements from the Basic Rider Course (BRC). A knowledge test and Rider Skills Test will be given. It is designed for riders who want to brush up on their basic skills or who want to obtain a motorcycle endorsement. Students must provide their own motorcycle and proof of insurance. The motorcycle must be properly titled and registered, display a valid license plate and pass a safety inspection. Automatic shift motorcycles will be allowed in this class.
- **Advanced Rider Courses (ARC)** A one-day course that complements a rider's basic skills and helps with personal risk assessment. It includes a fast-paced classroom segment with several interactive activities to improve perception and hazard awareness. Range exercises enhance both basic skills and crash avoidance skills. Improving braking and cornering finesse is emphasized. The course is beneficial for riders on any type of street

motorcycle. The ARC is for riders who already have their endorsement and who want to sharpen their riding skills. Students must provide their own motorcycle and proof of insurance. The motorcycle must be properly titled and registered, display a valid license plate and pass a safety inspection.

Rider Skills Test

Rider Skills Tests are another good measurement of the skills necessary to operate a motorcycle safely in traffic. Assessing your own skills is not enough. People often overestimate their own abilities. It's even harder for friends and relatives to be totally honest about your skills. The Rider Skills Test is designed to be scored objectively by a certified Rider Skills Test examiner. Rider Skills Tests are provided by Third-Party Testing Organizations approved by the Michigan Department of State. Test fees are set by the testing organization and may vary, so be sure to ask about costs when calling providers in your area for information.

What to Expect During the Rider Skills Test

Following are the required skills test elements and approximate times for the test. The allotted times are estimated minimums. Visit the department's website at www.michigan.gov/motorcycletest for more information.

- Vehicle inspection – 5 minutes, not scored.
- Basic control skills on range – 10 minutes, scored.

During the Rider Skills Test, authorized examiners must always:

- Read standard instructions to each applicant for each part of the test (a list of instructions is provided to the examiner for this purpose).
- Use only department-approved, off-street exercises.

Before taking the Rider Skills Test, you must:

- Have a legally equipped and registered motorcycle.

- Wear the proper gear, including a U.S. DOT-approved, labeled and properly fastened helmet. The skills test will not be given if you are not wearing an approved helmet.

To drive a motorcycle to your skills test, you must wear a DOT-approved helmet, you must have a valid motorcycle TIP and you must be under the constant visual supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator at least age 18.

The motorcycle skills test approved by the Department of State has seven exercises that gauge your ability to handle a motorcycle, including starting, accelerating, turning and braking. The test, on page 12, consists of four riding exercises that measure your motorcycle control and hazard response skills and will take about 15 minutes to complete. (These same range exercises are also used to evaluate a rider's skill in the basic motorcycle rider education courses.)

Engine stall: This is scored during the entire test. Points are assessed each time you stall the engine during any exercise.

- 1. Cone weave:** You must weave through a series of five cones that are placed 12 feet apart.
Normal stop: You must make a smooth stop without skidding, with the front tire of your motorcycle in a painted box.
- 2. Right turn from a stop:** You take off from a stop making an immediate right turn.
U-Turn: You must make a left U-turn in a marked area. Those operating motorcycles over 600 cc are allowed more room to complete the U-turn. Motorcycles of 600 cc or less have a smaller U-turn area.
- 3. Quick stop:** You accelerate along a straight path. At the end of the path (marked by cones), you must stop your motorcycle as quickly and safely as possible.
- 4. Obstacle swerve:** You accelerate along a straight path. At the end of the path (marked by cones), you must swerve to avoid an obstacle line and then swerve to avoid the sidelines of the exercise.

Vision Test

You will be given a vision test to determine if your vision meets minimum standards. If corrective lenses are needed to pass the test, your driver's license will show you must wear corrective lenses while driving. If you fail the vision test, your eye-care specialist must complete a vision statement. A favorable vision statement means a driver's license can be issued. Sometimes special driving limitations, such as "daytime driving only," will be required if a vision statement indicates it. If the vision statement is not favorable, your application will be denied.

Knowledge Test

A motorcycle safety knowledge test given at a Secretary of State office must be passed before a motorcycle TIP can be issued. Knowledge test questions are based on information, practices and ideas from this manual. They require that you know and understand the rules of the road and safe riding practices. The knowledge test and Rider Skills Test requirements are waived if you have successfully passed a motorcycle rider education course approved by the department.
MCL 257.309 (10).

Motorcycle Registration Requirements

Under Michigan law, motorcycle registrations are issued for one year and expire on the owner's birthday. You must register your motorcycle at a Secretary of State office if you plan to operate it on public roads. When registering, you will need to provide:

- Proof of insurance for at least \$20,000/\$40,000 public liability and \$10,000 property damage coverage.
- For an original registration, your motorcycle title.
- For a renewal registration, your renewal notice or last year's registration.

Renewing Your Motorcycle Registration

Proof of insurance is required when renewing your motorcycle registration and license plate. If your renewal notice has a Personal Identification Number (PIN) or the phrase "insurance verified electronically" printed on it, you:

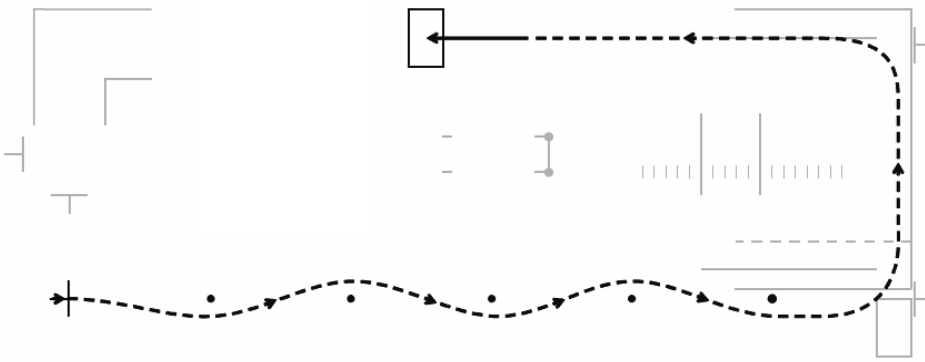
- Do not need to provide proof of insurance when renewing by mail or at a Secretary of State office.
- Have the option to renew online or at a Self-Service Station.

Tips When Renewing:

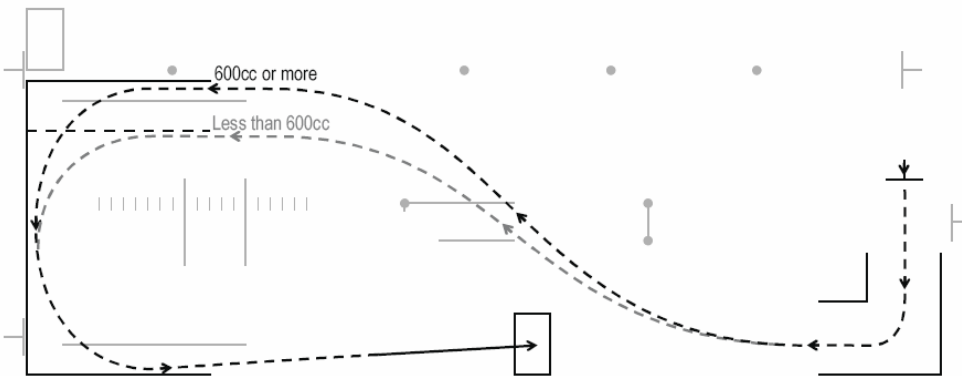
- Online – ExpressSOS.com – Hop online, not in line, to ExpressSOS.com, featuring Print 'N Go technology. Click on "Renew Vehicle Plate/Tab" and you will finish with a copy of your new registration in hand.
- Self-Service Station – Self-Service Stations are available at many Secretary of State offices and some are available 24/7. Your tab and registration are issued immediately.
- Mail – A worksheet and an addressed envelope is provided with your renewal notice.
- In person – Visit any Secretary of State office to renew in person.
- Debit and credit cards – Discover, MasterCard and Visa are accepted when renewing online, at Self-Service Stations and at the counter of all branch offices. A nominal processing fee may be charged.
- Cash, checks or money orders – Checks and money orders may be used when renewing by mail or at a branch office. Branch offices also accept cash.
- Your tab and registration will arrive within 14 days. These are issued immediately when renewing at a branch office or Self-Service Station.

For more information, please refer to your renewal notice, visit the Secretary of State website at www.Michigan.gov/sos or call 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).

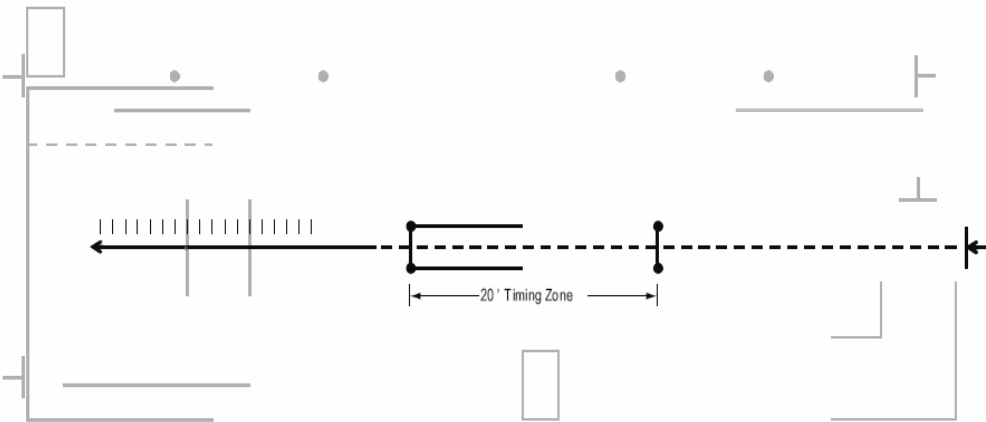
Successful completion of these four motorcycle riding skills is required to pass a basic motorcycle rider education course or the Rider Skills Test:



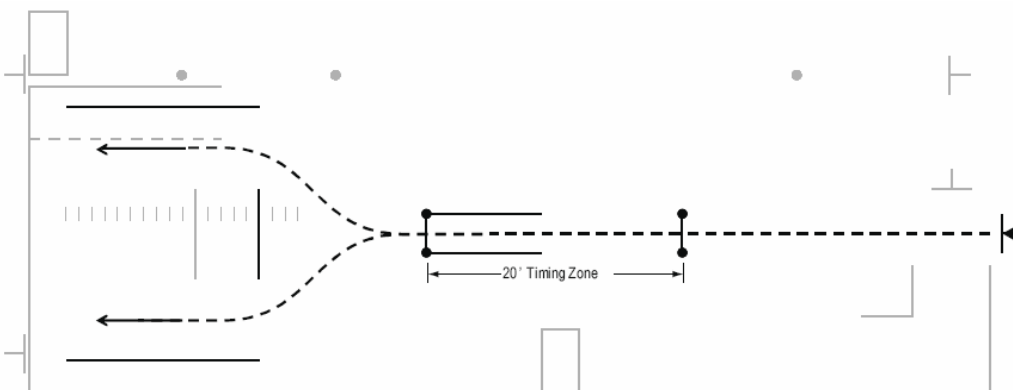
1. Cone weave and normal stop



2. Right turn from a stop



3. Quick Stop



4. Obstacle swerve

General Driver's License Renewal Information

Your driver's license is valid for four years. The license expiration date is shown on the upper right corner. The Department of State sends a renewal notice about 45 days before your license expires. Plan to renew at least two weeks before it expires. If your renewal notice does not arrive or is lost, do not let your driver's license expire. Go to a Secretary of State office and renew it.

Providing a Social Security Number

Anyone applying for or renewing a Michigan driver's license must provide a Social Security number before the application can be processed. The federal Welfare Reform Act requires states to collect Social Security numbers for use in child-support enforcement. A person who has never been issued a Social Security number must certify to that fact on an application obtained at a Secretary of State office. Individuals who make a false statement on the application are subject to imprisonment for one to five years, a fine of \$500 to \$5000, or both. The individual's license or permit will also be suspended.

Renewing Your Driver's License Online

Hop online, not in line, to ExpressSOS.com, featuring Print 'N Go technology. Check the front of your renewal notice to see if you are eligible to renew online. Go to www.ExpressSOS.com and click on "Renew Driver's License." Pay with Discover, MasterCard or Visa. A nominal processing fee will be charged.

Renewing Your Driver's License by Mail

You may be eligible to renew your driver's license by mail if you:

- Renewed in person the last time.
- Do not have a Commercial Driver License.
- Are not listed on the sex offender registry.

If you have had a change in your physical condition during the past six months, you must renew in person. You may need to submit a physician's statement to renew.

Renewing Your Driver's License In Person

When you renew your driver's license at a Secretary of State office, you will be required to take a vision screening. A new photograph will be taken. You may pay the renewal fee with cash, money order or a personal check. Discover, MasterCard and Visa are accepted at all branch offices at the counter. A nominal processing fee will be charged when using a debit or credit card.

Change of Address

Michigan law requires that your driver's license address, which is your place of residence, match the address on your voter registration card. You may submit a change of address online at www.ExpressSOS.com (click on "Update Address/Profile Details"), by mail (forms are available online at www.Michigan.gov/sos) or at any Secretary of State office. There is no fee for this service.

Office Hours

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays – 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Offices in city centers are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Secretary of State PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers provide extended Wednesday hours from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- SUPER!Centers also offer Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Smaller offices may close for a lunch hour, and all branches are closed on state holidays.

Test Your Knowledge

Select the alternative (A, B or C) that best answers the question.

1. To operate a motorcycle legally on public roads in Michigan, you must have:

- A. A driver's license.
- B. A chauffeur's license.
- C. A motorcycle endorsement (CY).

2. A person with a motorcycle Temporary Instruction Permit must:

- A. Always carry the permit when riding.
- B. Ride under the constant visual supervision of a licensed motorcyclist age 18 or older.
- C. Never ride at night or carry passengers.
- D. All of the above.

3. How many motorcycle Temporary Instruction Permits does Michigan law allow?

- A. As many as needed until the rider successfully passes the rider skills test.
- B. Two permits in a 10-year period.
- C. Two permits each year.

1. Answer: C – page 8, Applying for a Motorcycle Endorsement

2. Answer: D – page 7, Operating with a Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP)

3. Answer: B – page 7, Operating with a Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP)