



**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR MOTORCYCLES  
(INCLUDING LIMITED USE MOTORCYCLES)**

*Equipment must be of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.*

\*If you are building a homemade or custom vehicle, please contact our Technical Services Unit at (518) 474-5282 (select option 4).

<b>BRAKES</b>	Brakes must be adequate to control the motorcycle at all times, and must be in good working order. All 1971 and newer motorcycles must be equipped with brakes acting on the front and rear wheels to stop the motorcycle within 25 feet from 20 MPH on a hard, dry surface.
<b>HORN</b>	The sound produced must be loud enough to serve as a warning, but not unnecessarily loud or harsh.
<b>MUFFLER</b>	No person shall operate on any highway a motorcycle which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not equipped with a muffler to prevent excessive or unusual noise;</li> <li>• equipped with a muffler from which the baffle plates, screens or other original internal parts have been removed or altered;</li> <li>• equipped with an exhaust device without internal baffles, known as “straight pipes”;</li> <li>• equipped with a modified exhaust system that amplifies or increases the exhaust noise so it is louder than the noise made by the original exhaust system.</li> </ul>
<b>MIRROR</b>	A motorcycle must have an adjustable rear view mirror to give the operator a clear view of the road and traffic conditions behind the motorcycle.
<b>WINDSCREEN</b>	If the motorcycle is equipped with a windscreen, the windscreen and its brackets must be permanently labeled by the manufacturer to ensure they are approved for highway use.
<b>HANDLE BARS OR GRIPS</b>	The handle bars or grips must not be higher than the operator’s shoulders.
<b>SEAT HEIGHT</b>	Measure from the ground to the top of the operator’s seat. If the seat is adjustable, the seat must be at its lowest position. Seat height must be at least 25 inches from the ground on a two-wheeled motorcycle, and 20 inches on a three-wheeled motorcycle.
<b>TIRES</b>	A tire may not be used if there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a visible break, that is, a cut in excess of one inch which is deep enough to reach body cords;</li> <li>• any bump, bulge, ply or cord exposure;</li> <li>• any portion of tread design that is completely worn, and which is of sufficient size to affect the traction or stopping ability of the tire;</li> <li>• tread depth (when measured with a tire gauge) of less than 2/32 of an inch;</li> <li>• labeling such as “not for highway use”, “for racing purposes only” or words of similar intent.</li> </ul>
<b>LIGHTING DEVICES &amp; REFLECTORS</b>	<u>One unit may be used to accomplish two or more lighting purposes.</u>
◆ <b>Headlamps</b>	The motorcycle must display at least one headlamp to the front of the vehicle. When operated with a sidecar attached, it must have at least two headlamps displayed to the front. The headlamp(s) must be capable of projecting a dual beam (high/low). The headlamp(s) must be “on” whenever the motorcycle is operated on the public highways of this state.
◆ <b>Stop Lamp</b>	One red stop lamp must be displayed to the rear. Some older motorcycles were equipped with a red-amber stop light. These lights are approved only for use on the original vehicle.
◆ <b>Tail Lamp</b>	One red tail lamp must be displayed to the rear. This lamp must be visible from 300 feet, and must be “on” whenever the motorcycle is operated on the public highways of this state.
◆ <b>Reflector</b>	One red reflector must be displayed to the rear of the vehicle (may be a part of the tail lamp).
◆ <b>License Plate Lamp</b>	The plate must be lit with a white light bright enough to make the plate visible from 50 feet.
◆ <b>Turn Signal Lamps</b>	Any 1985 or newer motorcycle must be equipped with directional or turn signals. Any motorcycle which was originally equipped with such signals, or to which such signals have been added, must have them inspected. Turn signals must show amber to the front and red or amber to the rear.
<b>SPEEDOMETER</b>	All 1980 and newer motorcycles must be capable of measuring the motorcycle’s speed, and of displaying the speed in miles per hour.