



Vehicle registration & licensing

Identifying motor assisted cycles

When first introduced, **motor assisted cycles** (MACs) were easily identifiable as regular bicycles with an electric motor to assist the rider. The group now includes many different varieties of electric cycles and electric scooters that are often difficult to distinguish from **limited speed motorcycles** (LSMs).

LSMs are considered motor vehicles and are defined in the [Motor Vehicle Act Regulations](#). MACs are specifically excluded from the motor vehicle category and are defined as a distinct device in the [Motor Vehicle Act](#).

For key differences between MACs and LSMs, refer to the attached table.

Alterations to a MAC

If the pedals are removed, or adjusted so the pedals don't provide propulsion while the cycle is being operated, then it no longer qualifies as a MAC. Other changes also disqualify a vehicle's MAC status, such as increasing the motor power beyond 500 watts or increasing its maximum speed.

Operators of motorized cycles that don't qualify as MACs are considered motorcycles and are subject to offences under the MVA if operated improperly, including:

s. 13(1)(a)	No vehicle licence	\$109
s. 24(3)(b)	No insurance	\$598
s. 24(1)	No driver's licence	\$138
s. 221(1)	Ride motorcycle without required helmet	\$138
s. 219	Operating a motor vehicle not equipped as required, e.g., if the MAC motor size limit is exceeded then LSM equipment is required	\$109

Legislation and regulations

For more information on the legislative requirements for motor assisted cycles, please consult:

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 1](#) – Definitions of "Motor Assisted Cycle" and "Motor Vehicle"

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 119\(1\)](#) – Definition of "Cycle"

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 124\(1\)](#) – Municipal powers

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 182.1](#) – Motor Assisted Cycles

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 183](#) – Rights and duties of operator of cycle

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 184](#) – Bicycle safety helmets

Motor Vehicle Act, [Section 221](#) – Ride motorcycle without required helmet

[Motor Assisted Cycle Regulations](#) (B.C. Reg. 151/2002)



Contact

For more information, contact

Rob Miller, Policy Advisor
Vehicle Licensing and Road Safety Policy
250-414-7907 or email robert.miller@icbc.com

Mark Francis
Senior Manager, Provincial Vehicle Registration & Licensing
ICBC

Key differences between MACs and LSMs

	motor assisted cycles	limited speed motorcycles
		
description	MACs are 2 or 3-wheeled cycles with a seat, functioning pedals and a small motor assist.	LSMs are small motorcycles or scooters that rely on motor power (<i>may</i> also have pedals.)
power	Electric motor, not more than 500 watts AND Bicycle-style pedals (functional)	Gas engine not more than 50 cc's, or Electric motor not more than 1,500 watts
maximum speed	32 km/hour on level ground without pedalling	70 km/h on level ground
registration, licence & insurance	not required	required
driver's licence	DL is not required. Operator must be at least 16 years old.	DL required , any class (i.e., class 5 is allowed.)
helmet	Must wear a bicycle helmet.	Must wear a motorcycle helmet.
rules of the road	Same rights and duties as for a motor vehicle, e.g. must obey all traffic lights and control devices. Rights and duties for an operator of a cycle apply, e.g., ride as close as practicable to the right hand side, use hand signals in advance of a turn or stop, yield when required, etc.	Same rights and duties as for a motor vehicle; e.g. must obey all traffic lights and control devices.
equipment	Appropriate bicycle lighting and reflectors between sunset and sunrise.	Motorcycle vehicle standards apply, e.g. lights, turn signals, rear-view mirror, etc. as per regulations.

(This table is sized to fit in ticket books for ease of reference.)



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