

Electric Vehicle European Legal Position (UK)

The EU have policies governing the use of electric vehicles on public roads but the various governing agencies of each EU country apply their own interpretations to the EU Statutory Instruments resulting in information open to misinterpretation.

However, EU law and government policies provide that certain 'classes' of electric vehicles fall outside of any taxation class, whilst others may be classed as 50cc mopeds for insurance purposes and would therefore require the driver to hold a license and wear appropriate protection.

Some Electric scooters are marketed as being Street Legal since they have adequate braking, lighting and horn. However, if a scooter or bike falls outside the EAPC guidelines it must have a certificate of conformity from the manufacturer and be registered for road use by the DVLA if it is to be used in the UK public roads.

Our Electric Bikes and Scooters marked (14) are classed as EAPCs...

The Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC) Regulations advise us that vehicles meeting the criteria would fall outside of any legal requirement for taxation, MOT test, insurance, VOSA Certificate of Conformity and DVLA registration. In addition the rider would not be required to hold insurance, a license to drive nor wear a crash helmet and could ride such a vehicle from the age of 14 upwards.

In short an EAPC is categorised as:

- An electrically assisted vehicle
- Having a motor power of no more than 200 Watts (Bicycle) or 250 Watts (Tricycle or Tandem)
- A maximum unladen weight (not including batteries) of 40Kg (Bicycle) or 60Kg (Tricycle or Tandem)
- The facility to be operated solely by pedals when power is removed.
- A maximum road speed of 16mph (25KmH) under power.

For vehicles outside these criteria and designed for public road use in the UK, a certificate of conformity must be obtained from The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

Then the vehicle must be registered with the DVLA.

All our Non-EAPC bikes and scooters come with Certificates of Conformity and DVLA registration forms ready for registration.

From The VOSA Website (Vehicle and operator Services Agency) Vehicle Certificate Of Conformity Application Form:

Definitions of vehicle types

Mopeds

Low powered moped

- ⦿ a moped with pedals,
- ⦿ with auxiliary propulsion not exceeding 1kW, and
- ⦿ a maximum design speed not exceeding 25km/h (16mph).

2 wheeled vehicle

- ⦿ with a maximum design speed not exceeding 45km/h (28mph) (48km/h [30mph] if manufactured before 08/08/03),
- ⦿ fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc, or
- ⦿ fitted with an electric motor with a maximum continuous power not exceeding 4kW.

3 wheeled vehicle

- ⦿ with a maximum design speed not exceeding 45km/h (28mph) (48km/h [30mph] if manufactured before 08/08/03),
- ⦿ fitted with a spark ignition internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc, or
- ⦿ fitted with any other internal combustion engine which has a maximum net power output not exceeding 4kW, or
- ⦿ fitted with an electrical motor with a maximum continuous power not exceeding 4kW,
- ⦿ not exceeding 270 kg unladen, and
- ⦿ if designed to carry goods a payload not exceeding 300kg.

4 wheeled vehicle (light quadricycle)

- ⦿ with a maximum design speed not exceeding 45km/h (28mph) (48km/h [30mph] if manufactured before 08/08/03),
- ⦿ fitted with a spark ignition internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc, or
- ⦿ fitted with any other internal combustion engine which has a maximum net power output not exceeding 4kW, or
- ⦿ fitted with an electrical motor with a maximum continuous power not exceeding 4kW,
- ⦿ not exceeding 350kg unladen, and
- ⦿ if designed to carry goods a payload not exceeding 200kg.

If any of the above moped classes are powered by an electric motor the weight of the batteries must not be included in the unladen weight.

A vehicle fitted with an electrical motor with a maximum continuous power of more than 4kW will be classed as a Motorcycle or Motor Tricycle as appropriate.

Motorcycles

2 wheeled vehicle

- ⦿ with or without sidecar,
- ⦿ fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50cc and/or a maximum design speed of more than 45km/h (28mph).

Motor Tricycles

3 wheeled vehicle (with 3 symmetrically arranged wheels)

- ⦿ fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50cc and/or a maximum design speed of more than 45km/h (28mph),
- ⦿ not exceeding 1000kg unladen, and
- ⦿ if designed to carry goods a payload not exceeding 1500kg.

4 wheeled vehicle (heavy quadricycle)

- ⦿ fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50cc and/or a maximum design speed of more than 45km/h (28mph),
- ⦿ the maximum net engine power not exceeding 15kW,
- ⦿ not exceeding 400kg unladen (550kg for goods vehicles), and
- ⦿ if designed to carry goods a payload not exceeding 1000kg,
- ⦿ the weight of the batteries not being included in the unladen weight.

The requirement for a Certificate Of Conformity does not apply to the following vehicles:

- ⦿ Cycles with pedal assistance which are equipped with an auxiliary electric motor having a maximum continuous rated power of 0.25kW, of which the output is progressively reduced and finally cut off as the vehicle reaches a speed of 25km/h, or sooner, if the cyclist stops pedalling.