

E-scooters FAQs

Q. What is an e-scooter?

A. An electric scooter or e-scooter is a vehicle with a small standing platform and no seat, for use by one person only, with two or more wheels and propelled by an electric motor. The rider can also propel the scooter forward by pushing off the ground.

Q. When do the new laws for e-scooters come into force?

A. The regulations for e-scooters come into force from 20 May 2024.

Q. Are e-scooters legal in Ireland?

A. From 20 May 2024, e-scooters are legal to use on public roads under the [Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023](#).

Q. What is the minimum age limit for e-scooter users?

A. E-scooter users must be 16 or older. Gardai will have the power to seize an e-scooter if it's being used by anyone under the age of 16.

Q. Do I need to register, tax, or insure my e-scooter?

A. No.

Q. Do I need a licence to use my e-scooter in a public place?

A. No.

Q. What are the rules for using e-scooters in Ireland?

A. From 20 May 2024, e-scooter users must:

- Drive on the left, including in cycle and bus lanes.
- Be 16 or older.
- Obey the rules of the road, particularly for traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, pelican crossings and zebra crossings.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or school warden.
- Obey all traffic lights, including bicycle traffic lights.
- Obey all traffic signs in the same way that they apply to cyclists.
- Not carry passengers or goods.
- Not use the footpath.
- Obey a speed limit of 20km/h.
- Not hold or use a mobile phone.

Q. What are the technical specifications for e-scooters?

E-scooters must:

- Have a maximum power output of 400 watts or less.
- Have a maximum weight of 25 kg (including batteries).
- Have a maximum design speed of 20 km/h or less.
- Have wheels with a minimum diameter of 200mm.
- Be fitted with front and rear lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell.
- Be fitted with a manufacturer's plate certifying the power output, weight and design speed.

Q. What if my e-scooter doesn't meet the technical requirements in the regulations?

A. If your e-scooter doesn't meet the current legislative requirements, it will remain illegal for you to use it in a public place. It will be subject to enforcement by An Garda Síochana and may be seized. **Q. Can I carry a passenger on an e-scooter?**

A. No. It's illegal and unsafe for you to carry a passenger on an e-scooter and a fixed charge notice will apply if you're caught.

Q. What rules apply for e-scooters for alcohol/drugs?

A. An e-scooter may not be used while under the influence of an intoxicant. An e-scooter user charged with this offence will face a court appearance and can be fined up to €2,000.

Q. What are the rules governing the use of e-scooters in public places?

From 20 May, E-scooters can be used:

- by people over 16.
- on cycle and bus lanes.
- on local, regional and national roads.

E-scooters are **not** permitted:

- to be used by people under 16.
- to carry goods or passengers.
- to have a seat.
- to be used on footpaths, pedestrianised areas or on motorways.

In addition, where a bicycle is not permitted, e-scooters are not permitted either. Rules that cover bicycles apply to e-scooters.



RUS 055: No Pedal Cycles or Electric Scooters

Q. What are the standards for using an e-scooter?

A. E-scooters must have lights, a bell or audible warning device, reflectors and brakes. They must be in a roadworthy condition and must not be fitted with seats. The same fixed charge notices (fines) that apply to cyclists will apply to e-scooter users.

Q. By law, do I need to wear a helmet and high vis clothing when using my e-scooter?

A. No, but we strongly recommend you do, for your own safety.

Q. Do I have to have lights on my e-scooter?

A. Yes. Legally, you must have front and rear lights on your e-scooter, and these must be switched on during lighting up hours and darkness.

Q. Do I need to maintain my e-scooter in a roadworthy condition?

A. Yes. Under road traffic law, the owner and driver must ensure their vehicle is in a roadworthy condition at all times when used in a public place. All parts and equipment must be in good working order. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

Q. Where can e-scooters be used?

A. E-scooters can be used on local, regional and national roads and are permitted to use cycle lanes and bus lanes.

Q. Where must e-scooters not be used?

A. E-scooters must not be used on footpaths, nor in pedestrian areas unless there is a cycle lane. They cannot be used on motorways, or in tunnels where bicycles are prohibited. They cannot be parked in areas where parking is prohibited, eg loading bays, accessible parking and charging bays.

Where a bicycle is not permitted, e-scooters are not permitted either. The rules for bicycles also apply to e-scooters.



RUS 055: No Pedal Cycles or Electric Scooters

Q. What is the maximum speed of an e-scooter?

A. E-scooter users must not exceed 20 km/h on public roads. Users who exceed the maximum speed limit will risk a fixed charge notice of €50.

Q. How can other road users share the road safely with e-scooters?

A. Motorists sharing the road with e-scooters should follow the same guidelines as for sharing the road with cyclists. Drivers should give one metre clearance when overtaking an e-scooter user in speed zones that are 50 km/h or under, and 1.5 metres in speed zones over 50 km/h.

Q. How can e-scooters share the road safely with other road users?

A. Familiarise yourself with the traffic laws and regulations concerning e-scooters. Understanding speed limits, where e-scooters are allowed travel and other rules can help you responsibly share the road. However, e-scooter users must obey the rules of the road. Breaking the rules of the road, not following regulations and improper or dangerous use of an e-scooter will likely result in fines.

Q. What happens if I am in a collision?

A. If you are an e-scooter user and injured by another vehicle, you should exchange details with the driver, including their insurance details. If possible, the incident should be reported to Gardai. Some helmets have cameras built into them and this footage could prove useful when trying to determine liability for a collision.

If you are in a collision with an e-scooter and you suffer injury or property damage, you should, if possible, ask the user for their name and address. In addition, you should request details of the scooter they are using (make, model, engine size, etc). Should you suffer injuries, medical assistance should be sought as soon as possible. If possible, the incident should be reported to Gardai.

Q. Can I bring my e-scooter onto public transport?

A. Due to safety concerns associated with lithium-ion batteries on e-scooters in the enclosed confines of a public transport vehicle, it is intended that e-scooters will not be permitted on State-provided public transport services – Luas, rail and bus.

Q. What do I need to be aware of if I'm buying an e-scooter?

A. E-scooters for sale within the EU must comply with the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and this has been transposed in national law by the Machinery Regulations S.I. 407/2008.

You should ensure that you buy from a reputable retailer/distributor, and checks should be carried out to ensure:

1. The e-scooter is CE marked, with details of manufacturer, date of manufacture and designation/serial number on its CE plate.
2. A Declaration of Conformity must be provided with the e-scooter, drawn up and signed by the manufacturer declaring it complies with the Machinery Directive and relevant standards.

Please note that an e-scooter with a price that appears to be too good to be true may not comply with the legislation or safety standards and may not be safe for use.

Q. What fixed charge notices (FCNs) will apply to e-scooters?

A. The list of FCNs for e-scooters is below. A €50 charge will apply for each offence.

Description of Contravention	Fine
Electric scooter exceeding the speed limit.	€50
Driving an electric scooter in a public place without reasonable consideration for other people using the place.	€50
Failure to stop electric scooter for a school warden sign	€50
Failure to stop an electric scooter when so required by a member of Garda Síochána	€50
Using an electric scooter to carry goods	€50
Using an electric scooter to carry passengers	€50
Using an electric scooter equipped with a seat	€50
Modifying an electric scooter in a manner that is prohibited in that regulation	€50
Towing another vehicle, any equipment, implement or any other item	€50
Using an electric scooter that is not roadworthy	€50
Exceeding the maximum design speed	€50
Exceeding the maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor, or combination of electric motors	€50
Exceeding the dimensions provided for in that regulation	€50
Failure to fit a braking device in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit lighting and reflectors in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit an audible warning device, bell or horn in accordance with that regulation	€50
Failure to fit wheels and tyres in accordance with that regulation	€50
Driving an electric scooter along or across a footway, other than for access or egress	€50
Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey traffic lights	€50

Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey traffic lights/signs at a railway level crossing.	€50
Driving an electric scooter into a pedestrianised street or area other than on a cycle track.	€50
Failure by driver of an electric scooter to obey cycle traffic lights	€50
Holding a mobile phone while driving an electric scooter.	€50

E-Bikes FAQs

Background

The laws in Ireland have been changed to classify different types of electric bikes.

In Ireland, **e-bike** means a bicycle with an electric motor up to 250 Watts, where the motor cuts out when pedaling stops (known as **pedal assisted**) or the speed reaches 25kph. E-bikes are treated as regular bicycles and may be used in cycle lanes.

Under the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023, more powerful pedal assisted e-bikes and bicycles operating on the motor alone (**throttle assisted**) are mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs), like cars or motorbikes. They are called **e-mopeds**.

All e-mopeds will require registration and motor tax. Throttle assisted e-mopeds must also have motor insurance. Pedal assisted e-mopeds will not need insurance.

These FAQs will provide a useful guide to the definitions and rules of use for e-bikes and e-mopeds.

Q. What is an e-bike?

A. An electric bicycle is any bicycle with an electric motor for propulsion and its own battery system. Electric bicycles come in two main configurations. The first type only uses power from the motor while the cyclist is pedaling (**pedal assisted**), where the other type can use the motor without pedalling (**throttle assisted**).

In Ireland, an **e-bike** is a pedal assisted electric bicycle where the motor cuts out before reaching 25kph and it has a maximum continuous power of 250 Watts. [In Europe these are also called pedelecs or electrically power assisted cycles (EPACs)]. An e-bike is regarded under Irish law as equivalent to a conventional bicycle.

Q. What are the rules for using e-bikes in Ireland?

A. From 20 May 2024, e-scooters will be legal to use on Irish roads. E-bike users must:

- Drive on the left, including in cycle and bus lanes.
- Obey the rules of the road.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or school warden.
- Obey all traffic lights, including bicycle traffic lights.
- Obey all traffic signs in the same way that they apply to cyclists.
- Not use the footpath.
- Obey all posted speed limits.
- Not hold a mobile phone.

Q. What are the rules for using e-bikes in public places?

A. E-bikes will be permitted:

- to use cycle and bus lanes,

- to use local, regional and national roads.

E-bikes will **not** be permitted:

- to be used on footpaths, pedestrianised areas or on motorways.

In addition, where a bicycle is not permitted, e-bikes are not permitted either. Rules that cover bicycles apply to e-bikes.



RUS 055: No Pedal Cycles or Electric Scooters

Q. What rules apply for e-bikes and alcohol/drugs?

A. An e-bike may not be used while under the influence of an intoxicant. An e-bike user charged with this offence will face a court appearance and be liable to a fine of up to €2000.

Q. What is an e-moped?

A. E-mopeds are more powerful electric bicycles and there are two types.

- **L1e-A e-moped**– pedal assisted, with a maximum speed of 25kph and maximum power of up to 1,000 Watts.
- **L1e-B e-moped** – a two wheeled moped, pedal-assisted or throttle-assisted, with a maximum speed of 45kph and maximum power of 4,000 Watts.

Q. What are the rules for using e-mopeds in Ireland?

A. From 20 May 2024, e-mopeds will be legal to use on Irish roads. E-moped users must:

- Drive on the left.
- Obey the rules of the road.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or school warden.
- Obey all traffic lights.
- Obey all traffic signs in the same way that they apply to other motorists.
- Not use the footpath.
- Obey all posted speed limits.
- Not hold a mobile phone.

Q. What rules apply for e-mopeds and alcohol/drugs?

A. An e-moped may not be used while under the influence of an intoxicant. An e-moped user charged with this offence will face the same penalties as those of a motorist, including the possibility of incurring penalty points.

Q. What is a mechanically propelled vehicle (MPV)?

A. Under the law, an MPV is any vehicle capable of being driven by a motor, like a car, truck or motorbike. In Ireland, MPVs generally require registration, tax and insurance for use on public roads

Q. Are e-mopeds MPVs, like cars and motorbikes?

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All e-mopeds are MPVs and must be taxed and registered. Throttle assisted L1e-B e-mopeds must also have insurance. Pedal assisted e-mopeds do not require insurance.

Under the Road Traffic Act 2023, e-bikes are not MPVs and are not subject to these requirements.

Q. Is there a quick reference table of all the rules and laws for e-bikes and e-mopeds?

A. The linked table summarises the relevant rules for e-bikes and e-mopeds.

Q. What is an L1e-A e-moped?

A. L1e-A Summary

- Maximum speed up to 25kph & maximum power of 250 W-1,000W

Q. What is an L1e-B e-moped?

A. L1e-B Summary

- Maximum speed up to 45kph and maximum power up to 4,000W

Q. Do I need a driving licence for an e-bike?

A. No. A driving licence is not required for an e-bike where the maximum speed is less than 25kph and the maximum power is less than 250 W.

Q. Do I need a driving licence for an e-moped?

A. A driving licence is not needed for an L1e-A e-moped. However, the more powerful L1e-B e-moped needs a moped (AM) category driving licence.

Q. At what age can I obtain a learner permit/driving licence for category AM (moped)?

A. 16.

Q. Do I need to pass a driver theory test for an L1e-A e-moped?

A. No. A driver theory test is not required for an L1e-A e-moped.

Q. Do I need to complete Initial Basic Training (IBT) for an L1e-A e-moped?

A. No. IBT is not required for an L1e-A E-Moped.

- you have held any motorbike category (A1, A2, A) licence in the previous 10 years.
- you were issued with a category B (car) driving licence before 21 October 2006, provided your category B driving licence has not expired by 10 years or more since then.

Q. Do I need to register and tax an e-bike?

A. No. You do not have to register an e-bike with the Revenue Commissioners or pay motor tax for it.

Q. Do I need to register an e-moped?

A. Yes. Both types of e-moped require vehicle registration with the Revenue Commissioners. However, as they are electric motorbikes, e-mopeds are currently exempt from Vehicle Registration Tax.

Q. Do I need to pay motor tax for an e-moped?

A. Yes. Annual motor tax must be paid for both types of e-moped and a valid motor tax disc displayed when used in a public place. If you do not intend to use the vehicle in a public place, you must declare it off the road in advance.

The annual motor tax rate for all e-mopeds is the same as for electric motorcycles, at €35. Details of how to pay motor tax on new and previously taxed vehicles are available at www.motortax.ie.

Motor tax for e-mopeds can be paid online at www.motortax.ie or at your local motor tax office. <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/1fc151-find-your-local-motor-tax-office/>.

When taxing an e-moped online, the registration number and personal identification number (PIN) will be required. Your PIN is the last six characters of your vehicle's chassis number (known as the serial number in the case of e-mopeds) for first time taxing of a brand new or imported vehicle.

Your PIN is the last six digits of your Vehicle Registration Certificate Number (VRC) for a second hand (taxed before) vehicle. There is a search function on www.motortax.ie to get your PIN if required.

Q. Do I need insurance for an e-bike or e-moped?

A. Pedal assisted e-bikes and e-mopeds do not require insurance. Throttle assisted e-mopeds require insurance (ie those that can be powered exclusively by the motor).

Q. Can I use my e-bike or e-moped in the cycle or bus lane?

A. E-bikes are treated as regular bicycles and may use cycle and bus lanes. L1e-A e-mopeds can also use cycle and bus lanes. However, L1e-B e-mopeds are not allowed in cycle or bus lanes.

Q. Where do I register my e-moped?

A. All e-mopeds must be registered once the new legislation is in place. The same registration requirements will apply as for other vehicles. You must make an appointment with a National

Car Testing Service (NCTS) Centre within 7 days of bringing the e-moped into the State and register it within 30 days of bringing it into the State. Owners of e-mopeds will need to register their vehicles once the new requirements come into effect.

Documents required for registration of a vehicle include a Certificate of Conformity (COC), which proves that the vehicle conforms with a European Type Approval. A vehicle cannot be registered until an electronic Certificate of Conformity (e-COC) is entered on the Revenue system. Please refer to the Revenue website for more information on what is required to register a vehicle: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/vrt/vehicle-registration-tax/vrt-and-registration.aspx>

When selling an unregistered e-moped in Ireland after the new legislation is in place, the retailer is required by law to register the e-moped before the buyer takes delivery.

Q. How can an e-moped be registered if it does not have a CoC?

A. If the manufacturer cannot supply a CoC, your e-moped (L1e-A or B) cannot be registered and may not be used on a public road. It can only be used on private property or purpose-built tracks.

Q. Do e-mopeds require roadworthiness tests?

A. No. However, under road traffic law, the owner and driver must ensure their vehicle is in a roadworthy condition when used in a public place. All parts and equipment must be in good working order. Failure to do so can result in prosecution.

Q. Do I need a helmet, high vis clothing and lights for an e-bike or e-moped?

A. For an e-bike, protective equipment such as helmets and high visibility clothing are recommended. Front and rear lights must be used during lighting up and periods of darkness.

For an e-moped (either L1e-A or B), you must wear an approved motorcycle helmet. Protective clothing and high-vis clothing are strongly recommended. L1e-A and L1e-B e-mopeds are MPVs and they require lighting on front and rear, as for motorbikes.

Q. Is it legal for children to ride e-bikes or e-mopeds on a public road?

A. E-bikes are treated as bicycles. There is no law against children riding them in a public place. We strongly recommend that young children are always supervised if riding in a public place.

E-mopeds are MPVs and it is illegal for a person under 16 to ride an MPV in a public place.

Q. What do I need to be aware of if I am buying an e-bike?

A. You should only buy from a reputable retailer/distributor, and checks should be carried out to ensure:

1. The e-bike is CE marked, with details of manufacturer, date of manufacture and designation/serial number on its CE plate.
2. A Declaration of Conformity must be provided with the e-bike, drawn up and signed by the manufacturer declaring the e-bike is in full compliance with the Machinery Directive and relevant standards.

Please note that e-bikes with a price that appears to be too good to be true may not comply with the legislation or safety standards and may not be safe for use.

Fixed charge notices for bicycles and e-bikes

No front lamp or rear lamp lit during lighting-up hours.	€40
Cycling in a public place without reasonable consideration for others.	€40
Failure to obey traffic lights.	€40
Failure to obey traffic lights / signs at railway level crossing.	€40
Cycling into a pedestrianised area other than in a cycle lane.	€40
Failure to obey cycle traffic lights.	€40
Failure to stop for a school warden stop sign.	€80

Q. Where can I find more information about e-bikes and e-mopeds?

A. Queries on the classification of e-bikes and e-mopeds and the associated legislation can be addressed to the Department of Transport.

Website: www.gov.ie/transport/

Email: info@transport.gov.ie

Phone number: 01 670 7444