



THE MOTOR CYCLE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LTD

Your Route to a Full Motorcycle Licence

Provisional Licence

You need to apply for a provisional Category A licence:

- If you have a full car licence ensure that it has provisional Category A entitlement
- If you have a provisional licence issued at 16 years ensure that it includes Category A entitlement

Compulsory Basic Training (CBT)

- If you hold a provisional motorcycle licence (Category A) or a full car licence issued after 1st February 2001 you will need to successfully complete a CBT Course before riding any moped, motorcycle or scooter on the road.
- If you hold a full car licence issued before 1st February 2001 you are entitled to ride a 50cc restricted moped on the road without L plates and you can carry a passenger. However to ride any motorcycle over 50cc you will be required to successfully complete a CBT Course.

Choice of Route

If you are 17 years or over you have a choice of 'route' you take to your full motorcycle licence. This will depend on what type of motorcycle you wish to ride.

A2 Motorcycle Licence

Training and testing for the Category A2 licence takes place on a 120cc - 125cc motorcycle of not more than 14.6bhp (11kw) which is capable of reaching a minimum speed of 100kph (62mph)

A1 Motorcycle Licence

Training and testing takes place on a motorcycle of between 75cc and 125cc.

Direct Access - Over 21

Training usually takes place on a combination of 125cc and larger machines with a power output in excess of 46.6bhp or 35kw. Your test will be conducted on a motorcycle that produces at least 46.6bhp or 35kw.

THE THEORY TEST – Required for all categories

- You will require a Theory Test pass before taking a practical test for any of the Categories of motorcycle licence. A full car licence does NOT exempt you from the Theory Test.
- The theory test is not required if you have passed a two part moped test or a lower category motorcycle test since 1st July 1996.
- The Theory Test Pass Certificate is valid for 2 years.

A2 Motorcycle Licence

If you pass the practical motorcycle test you will receive a restricted category A2 motorcycle licence. This licence entitles you to ride any motorcycle with a power output not exceeding 25 kW (33 bhp) and a power weight ratio not exceeding 0.16 kW / kg.

You will not need L plates anymore and you can carry a passenger on the pillion and can use the motorways.

A1 Motorcycle Licence

If you pass the practical A1 test you will receive a restricted motorcycle licence which will entitle you to ride any motorcycle with:

- An engine capacity not exceeding 125cc
- A max power output of 11 kW (14.6 bhp)

You can carry a pillion passenger and you can ride on motorways.

Direct Access - Over 21

If you pass your practical motorcycle test via the Direct Access Scheme you are issued with a full category A standard motorcycle licence and can ride any size bike. The usual two year restricted motorcycle licence will not come into play.

After the two year restricted period your category A2 licence becomes a full category A motorcycle licence and you can ride any size motorcycle. Note that it does not matter if the two year restricted period comes to an end and you have not turned 21 yet - you still get your full category A entitlement.

There is no motorcycle upgrade for an A1 licence. To receive a full A licence entitlement you can either:

- complete an A2 test and wait 2 years to automatically be upgraded
- or take an Accelerated Access course and take the full A licence if you are over 21 years old.

You already have the full motorcycle licence entitlement

Further Training

In all cases you should not consider this to be the end of your motorcycle training. There are many options available for post test training and assessment. The DSA Enhanced Rider scheme is one, and successfully completing a course will entitle you to significant savings on your insurance.