



ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



safety and usage

The popularity of electric scooters has increased recently in Iceland. Here are some of the main issues regarding their use and safety.

Electric scooters belong to the category of bicycles and are designed for speeds from 6 km/h up to 25 km/h.

The Traffic Act provides that such vehicles may not, however, operate on a roadway, but are in other respects subject to the same rules as bicycles, for example with regard to safety equipment and important things to consider when cycling on pedestrian paths.

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR DRIVING?

According to the Traffic Act, there is no age limit for riding electric scooters, but the criteria and instructions provided by the manufacturer must always be followed. Keep in mind that electric scooter rentals usually set age limits when renting out scooters.

DO I NEED TO USE A HELMET?

Children under the age of 16 are legally required to wear protective helmets. It is recommended that adults also wear helmets as an important safety equipment.

CAN I RIDE WITH A PASSENGER?

No.

CAN I RIDE ON A ROADWAY (STREET)?

No, the Traffic Act states that it is not allowed to ride an electric scooter on a roadway.

CAN I RIDE ON BICYCLE PATHS?

Yes. If a bicycle path is parallel to a pavement or pedestrian path, then it is obliged to use the bicycle path rather than pedestrian.

CAN I RIDE ACROSS A STREET (ACROSS A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING)?

Yes. It is important to slow down and watch out for traffic on the roadway. If a rider considers it safe to cross, it should be done at walking speed. When a rider arrives at a traffic-light controlled intersection or pedestrian crossing, the rider shall, like other road users, stop at a red light and not cross until the green light has come on.

CAN YOU PARK ANYWHERE?

An electric scooter must be parked so that it does not impede the movement of other road users, cause discomfort or create accident hazards. Electric scooters should not be parked in the middle of the pavement, on footpaths, by ramps, in front of house entrances or by pedestrian crossings.

CAN I RIDE ON A PAVEMENT OR PEDESTRIAN PATHS?

Yes. If you ride on a pavement or pedestrian path, the same rules apply to scooters as for bicycles.

- Cycling on pavements and pedestrian paths must not cause any danger or inconvenience to pedestrians.
- Pedestrians have priority and cyclists need to take this into account, especially in terms of speed.
- In general, all pedestrians, cyclists and other riders should stay on the right side and use the left-hand side to overtake.
- Where signs distinguish between pedestrian traffic on one side and bicycle traffic on the other, the bicycle lane shall be used.
- The rider needs to keep in mind that a pedestrian will not be expecting a fast cyclist or scooter rider approaching from behind. Therefore, it is important to slow down and give a sound signal in a timely manner before overtaking or before reaching a blind corner or turn.

CAN I RIDE AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL OR NARCOTICS?

No. Riding bikes and scooters after consuming alcohol or narcotics is prohibited by law.

CAN I USE A MOBILE PHONE OR SMART DEVICE WHILE RIDING?

No, the use of smart devices and mobile phones while riding a scooter is prohibited by law. The scooter must be stopped before using the phone.

DO ELECTRIC SCOOTERS NEED SPECIAL LIGHTS?

Yes, it is important to have powerful and good lights - white at the front and red at the back. Lighting is required during hours of darkness. Reflectors should be placed on the scooter, both front and rear.

CAN AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER BE ADJUSTED TO REACH A FASTER SPEED?

No, it is illegal to tamper with the device so it can be driven faster than 25 km/h.

DO I NEED INSURANCE?

There is no insurance obligation for these scooters, but owners are encouraged to seek advice from insurance companies regarding liability insurance.

