



Clovis Police Department

Electric Bicycle & Electric Motorcycle Reference Guide

As electric means of transportation become more prevalent in our communities, officers are encountering them more frequently. This guide is intended to provide information to our community.

The California Vehicle Code defines the different classes of modes of transportation and there are different requirements for each.

Quick Reference Guide

	<i>Pedal Operated</i>	<i>Max Speed (MPH)</i>	<i>Minimum Age (YRS)</i>	<i>Driver License Required</i>	<i>Registration/ License Plate Required</i>	<i>Helmet Required</i>	<i>Allowed on Bike Path/Trails</i>	<i>Allowed on Sidewalk</i>	<i>Allowed on Roadway</i>	<i>Subject to Impound</i>
<i>Bicycle</i>	YES	N/A	N/A	NO	NO	UNDER 18 VC21212(a)	YES	NO CMC 5.8.12	YES	NO
<i>Class-1 E-Bike</i>	YES	20	N/A	NO	NO	UNDER 18 VC21212(a)	YES	NO CMC 5.8.12	YES	NO
<i>Class-2 E-Bike</i>	YES	20	N/A	NO	NO	UNDER 18 VC21212(a)	YES	NO CMC 5.8.12	YES	NO
<i>Class-3 E-Bike</i>	YES	28	16 years old VC21213(a)	NO	NO	YES, ALL AGES VC21213(b)	NO	NO CMC 5.8.12	YES	NO
<i>Moped/ Motorized Bike</i>	YES/NO	30	15 ½	YES VC12500(b)	YES VC4000(a)(1)	YES VC27803(b)	NO VC23127	NO VC21663	YES	YES
<i>Motorcycle</i>	NO	N/A	15 ½	YES VC12500(b)	YES VC4000(a)(1)	YES VC27803(b)	NO VC23127	NO VC21663	YES	YES
<i>E-Motorcycle</i> (Configured from Mfg. for off-road use)	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES VC38170(b)	YES VC27803(b)	NO VC23127	NO VC21663	NO VC38025	YES
<i>Off Highway Motorcycle</i>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES VC38170(b)	YES VC27803(b)	NO VC23127	NO VC21663	NO VC38025	YES
<i>Pocket Bike</i>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO VC21720	NO VC21720	NO VC21720	YES

Frequently Asked Questions

Do Sur-Ron, Talaria, Segway, E Ride Pro, ETC off-highway electric motorcycles meet the CVC definition of an electric bicycle?

No. California Vehicle Code Section 312.5 defines an electric bicycle as: (a) An “electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts.

Do Sur-Ron, Talaria, Segway, E Ride Pro, ETC off-highway electric motorcycles meet the CVC definition of a motorized bicycle or moped?

No. California Vehicle Code Section 406 defines a motorized bicycle as: (a) A “motorized bicycle” or “moped” is a two-wheeled or three-wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals if powered solely by electrical energy, and an automatic transmission and a motor that produces less than 4 gross brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on level ground. 4 gross brake horsepower is roughly equivalent to 3000W.

Is a California OHV Green Sticker Registration required for Sur-Ron, Talaria, Segway, E Ride Pro, ETC off-highway electric motorcycles?

Yes. Existing law (CVC §38020 and CVC §38170) requires every off-highway motor vehicle being operated on public lands or private property that is open and accessible to the public to display an off-highway identification plate or device (CA OHV Green Sticker) issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Exception: Off-Highway Motor vehicles that are solely operated on private property that is under the direct control and permission of the landowner are not required to be registered/identified.

Can Sur-Ron, Talaria, Segway, E Ride Pro, ETC off-highway electric motorcycles be legally operated on highways, streets, sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, or off-street parking facilities?

No. These vehicles do not meet the definition of an electric bicycle (CVC §312.5) or moped (CVC §406), and therefore are only allowed to be operated in OHV designated areas or on private property. These vehicles are unable to be registered under the provisions of Division 3 (commencing with Section 4000) and cannot be modified to become street legal. These off-highway vehicles must be registered through the DMV as an off-highway motor vehicle to be operated in designated OHV areas. If the vehicle lacks proper identification, the vehicle shall only be operated on private property or on a closed course.

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Does adding aftermarket operable pedals to an electric off-highway motorcycle reclassify it as an electric bicycle?

No. California Vehicle Code Section 312.5 defines an electric bicycle as: (a) An “electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. Due to the motors on electric off-highway motorcycles exceeding the 750-watt limit, they do not meet the definition of an electric bicycle, regardless of having operable pedals.

Can an electric off-highway motorcycle such as a Sur-Ron, Talaria, E Ride Pro, Segway be converted to street legal?

No. Per California DMV, “Any motorcycle or vehicle originally manufactured for off-highway use cannot be converted for on highway use, unless it is manufactured for dual purposes.” – California DMV Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual 15.020.

Identification of Electric Modes of Transportation

E-bicycles - E-bicycles are broken down into three classifications and must have an electric motor of less than 750 watts. Class 1 and Class 2 are similar to regular bicycles and have the same general regulations. They can be identified as pedal assisted with an electric motor that reaches a maximum of 20 MPH. Class 1 and Class 2 riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet. Class 3 E-bicycles have added regulations on age (must be 16 years or older) and where they may be ridden. Additionally, all ages must wear a helmet when riding a Class 3 E-bicycle. Class 3 E-bicycles can be identified as pedal powered and assisted with an electric motor that ceases to provide power at 28 MPH. E-bicycles are required to have a sticker identifying their classification when sold, but often they are removed. If it does not have functional pedals, it is NOT an E-bicycle. All three classes of E-bicycles are property and therefore cannot be towed or impounded. (CVC 312.5)

Motorized Scooters – Motorized Scooters are two-wheeled devices with a floorboard or seat and are powered by an electric motor. Motorized Scooters have regulations on age, speed, and where they may be ridden. Additionally, riders may not carry passengers and must have a Driver License or Instructional Permit. Motorized Scooters are property and therefore cannot be towed or impounded. (CVC 407.5(a))

Motorcycles/Motor Driven Cycles – A motorcycle is a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. A motor driven cycle is a classification of motorcycle that displaces less than 150 cc. Many E-motorcycles perform and have features similar to off-road motorcycles (dirt bikes). Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles are not manufactured with pedals; however, some E-motorcycles have aftermarket kits used to disguise them as E-bicycles. Motorcycles and Motor Drive Cycles require a Driver License and motorcycle endorsement along with registration and insurance requirements just like other motor vehicles. E-Motorcycles and Motor Drive Cycles are vehicles and therefore may be towed or impounded. (CVC 400 & 405)

Moped/Motorized Bicycle – A two- or three-wheel devices that may or may not have fully operative pedals with a maximum speed not more than 30 MPH. Motorized Bicycles require a Driver License and motorcycle endorsement. mopeds and Motorized Bicycles are vehicles and therefore may be towed or impounded. (CVC 406(a))

E-Skateboards, Unicycles and Hoverboards - Riders must be at least 16 years or older, and must wear a bicycle helmet, regardless of age. These modes of transportation shall not be operated at a speed in excess of 15 MPH, and may only be operated on a roadway with a speed limit of 30 MPH or less, unless operated within a Class II or Class IV Bikeway.