

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MOTORCYCLE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2007

The Government is committed to improving road safety for motorcycle riders and has introduced two further key initiatives of the *Tasmanian Motorcycle Safety Strategy 2005-2006*, effective from 1 July 2007.

The initiatives are:

- A Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) power to weight scheme replaced the 250cc maximum engine capacity restriction for learner riders and all riders in their first year after progressing from a motorcycle learner licence; and
- The minimum age for getting a motorcycle learner licence increased from 16 years to 16 years and 6 months.

LAMS POWER TO WEIGHT SCHEME

What is LAMS?

LAMS is the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme.

What is the change?

The LAMS power to weight scheme replaced the 250cc maximum engine capacity restriction from 1 July 2007.

Who is affected by this change?

Motorcycle learner riders and all riders in their first year after progressing from their motorcycle learner licence are affected by the introduction of the LAMS power to weight scheme.

Riders whose current licence was issued after 1 July 2007 are allowed to ride LAMS motorcycles only.

Riders whose current licence was issued before 1 July 2007 are allowed to ride LAMS motorcycles, in addition to all motorcycles with an engine capacity not greater than 250cc.

How long are affected riders restricted to riding LAMS motorcycles?

These riders are restricted for all of their learner licence period and for the first 12 months after progressing from their motorcycle learner licence.

Is there any change to my licence if I am a motorcycle learner rider or in my first year after progressing from my motorcycle learner licence?

Yes. For motorcycle licences issued from 1 July 2007, the licence will have the words "LAMS M/CYCLE ONLY" on the back, instead of the words "M/CYCLE 250CC MAX".

From 1 July 2007, if one of the following conditions appears on the back of a motorcycle licence the condition means as shown:

- "LAMS M/CYCLE ONLY" = Ride LAMS motorcycles only
- "M/CYCLE 250CC MAX" = Ride LAMS motorcycles and all motorcycles with engine capacity not greater than 250cc.

Is there any change to the registration label and Certificate of Registration for LAMS motorcycles?

Yes. The words "LAMS APPROVED" appear on the LHS of the registration label and on the Certificate of Registration under the heading GVM/GCM.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MOTORCYCLE CHANGES

EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2007

Is there any further information available?

Yes. There is a fact sheet "[Introduction of LAMS](#)" and further information on the Transport website www.transport.tas.gov.au or you can phone the Transport Enquiry Service on 1300 851 225.

POWER TO WEIGHT INFORMATION

What is the LAMS power to weight scheme?

It is the scheme that allows learner riders and all riders in their first year after progressing from their motorcycle learner licence to ride moderately powered motorcycles with a maximum power to weight ratio of 150 kilowatts per tonne combined with a maximum engine capacity of 660cc.

What is the power to weight ratio?

It is a measure of the motorcycle's performance and is a better indicator of performance than engine capacity alone.

How is power to weight calculated?

The power output (kilowatts) is divided by the tare (dry) weight of the motorcycle + 90kg (for rider and fuel). The result is then multiplied by 1000 (to convert to kW per tonne), i.e.

$$\frac{\text{Engine power (kW)}}{\text{Tare weight (mass of motorcycle in kg) + 90kg (80kg rider weight + 10kg for fuel)}} \times 1000$$

The manufacturer determines the engine power and tare weight of the motorcycle.

Why use the figure of 90kg in the calculation?

This is the figure used for testing braking in Australian Design Rule ADR33 "Brake Systems for Motorcycles and Mopeds".

Has LAMS been introduced in other States?

Yes. NSW and SA have implemented this scheme (maximum power to weight ratio of 150 kilowatts per tonne combined with a maximum engine capacity of 660cc). Other States are also considering introducing LAMS. The ACT has a similar power to weight scheme.

MOTORCYCLE INFORMATION

How will I know if the motorcycle I want is a LAMS motorcycle?

The list of LAMS motorcycles is available on the transport website www.transport.tas.gov.au. This list is updated as new motorcycles enter the market and are approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

What motorcycles can I ride?

You can ride any LAMS motorcycle recorded on the LAMS list available on the transport website www.transport.tas.gov.au.

My motorcycle is not on the Tasmanian LAMS list and it should be. What can I do?

If your motorcycle is not on the LAMS list and you believe that it should be, you will need to complete a form, "[Application for a Motorcycle to be Recognised as LAMS-Approved Motorcycle](#)" that is available on the transport website www.transport.tas.gov.au. When applying you must include the manufacturer's specifications of the motorcycle with the application form so that the motorcycle can be assessed for suitability.

Will all motorcycles that comply be approved?

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles maintains the right to exclude any motorcycle from the list of approved motorcycles if it is deemed unsuitable, even if it complies with the power to weight and engine capacity requirements.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MOTORCYCLE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2007

How does the Registrar of Motor Vehicles determine what motorcycles should be on the LAMS list?

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles uses the NSW and SA lists as the basis for the Tasmanian LAMS list. The list is updated as new motorcycles enter the market and are approved for suitability.

My motorcycle registration label and certificate does not have the "LAMS APPROVED" words – why?

Commencing in May 2007 registration renewals for LAMS motorcycles have the words "LAMS APPROVED" printed on the registration label and certificate. It will take 12 months for all registration renewals to have these words printed on the label. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are riding a LAMS motorcycle.

If you have received your motorcycle registration renewal after April 2007 and your motorcycle is on the LAMS list but "LAMS APPROVED" has not printed on your registration label and certificate, please contact the Transport Enquiry Service on 1300 851 225.

What should I look for in a motorcycle – now that I have a much larger choice?

The LAMS list provides an extensive choice of motorcycles. You should consider what sort of riding you expect to be doing – road and/or off-road, commuting only, some touring, etc. In many cases it will come down to comfort, style of riding and the cost of the motorcycle. All motorcycles specified on the LAMS list (plus an extensive range of motorcycles under 250cc capacity not individually listed) are suitable for inexperienced riders.

EXEMPTION INFORMATION

Are exemptions available to ride motorcycles that are not LAMS motorcycles?

No. From 1 July 2007 exemptions for motorcycles that are not LAMS motorcycles will not be granted.

What about the 250cc 'race replica' motorcycles – can I ride these motorcycles if I am a learner or in the first year after progressing from my motorcycle learner licence?

There are currently five 250cc 'race replica' motorcycles that are no longer legal to ride if your licence was issued from 1 July 2007 with the "LAMS M/C ONLY" restriction.

These motorcycles are:

- Aprilia RS250;
- Honda NSR250;
- Kawasaki KR250 (KR-1 and KR-1S models);
- Suzuki RGV250; and
- Yamaha TZR250.

However, if you hold a current motorcycle learner licence, or are in the first year after progressing from your motorcycle learner licence and your licence has the 250cc maximum engine capacity restriction ("M/CYCLE 250CC MAX" - licence issued prior to 1 July 2007) you can continue to ride 250cc 'race replica' motorcycles.

I have an exemption to the 250cc maximum engine capacity restriction (licence issued prior to 1 July 2007), but the motorcycle is not on the LAMS list? Does this exemption continue to apply after 1 July 2007?

Yes. Your current exemption will be recognised, provided that you carry the exemption with you at all times while riding.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MOTORCYCLE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2007

ENFORCEMENT

How will the Police know whether I am riding a legal motorcycle?

The Police will check both your motorcycle licence and the motorcycle registration label.

The Motor Registry Computer System records if a Tasmanian registered motorcycle is a LAMS motorcycle. The Police can check the "LAMS APPROVED" status of the motorcycle.

Motorcycle registration renewal notices issued from May 2007 will show the words "LAMS APPROVED". It will take 12 months for all registration labels to be updated to show whether motorcycles are LAMS motorcycles.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS - MOTORCYCLE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2007

RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR GETTING A MOTORCYCLE LEARNER LICENCE

What is the minimum age for getting a motorcycle learner licence?

From 1 July 2007 the age increased from 16 years to 16 years and 6 months.

What is the minimum age for attending the pre-learner motorcycle training course?

16 years and 4 months.

What is the minimum age for sitting the Driver Knowledge Test for my motorcycle learner licence?

16 years and 5 months.

How long do I need to hold my motorcycle learner licence before I can do my pre-provisional motorcycle training course?

A minimum continuous period of six months, regardless of your age.

What is the minimum age for attending the pre-provisional motorcycle training course?

17 years.

What is the minimum age for getting my motorcycle provisional licence?

17 years.

RIDER HANDBOOK

What is the rider handbook?

It will be a safe riding handbook targeting both learner riders and those riders returning after a long break. The handbook will include information about riding techniques, how to cope with hazards, selecting and maintaining a motorcycle. The style of this handbook will be similar to the Supervisory Drivers' Handbook.

When will the handbook be available?

Work will commence on the rider handbook late in 2007. It is expected that the rider handbook will be available mid 2008.

SIX-MONTH MINIMUM CONTINUOUS LEARNER LICENCE PERIOD

When did this start?

1 July 2006.

What does it mean?

Motorcycle learner riders must hold their learner licence for a minimum continuous six-month period before attending the pre-provisional motorcycle training course. They must satisfactorily complete this course before applying for their provisional licence.

Exemptions are **not** granted for motorcycle learner riders, as this minimum period does not limit their mobility.