

“Luck runs out
but safety is good
for life.”

“I DIDN'T SEE HIM”
4 WORDS TO AVOID



Whether you're on a
motorcycle or a
moped/scooter, you still
need to follow some
simple safety rules when
you ride:

- **BE VISIBLE.** Remember that other motorists have a hard time seeing you. Ride as if you are 'invisible'.
- **DRESS FOR SAFETY.** The only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.
- **APPLY EFFECTIVE MENTAL STRATEGIES.** Use common sense when you ride. Follow the rules of the road. Ride defensively.
- **GET TRAINING.** It doesn't matter if you're on a moped, scooter, motorcycle, trike, etc., you still need to know how to correctly ride and stay safe doing it.



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**Be Safe.
Learn then Ride.**

**Ride Safe
Ride Smart**

 SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

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WATCH FOR
MOTORCYCLES



EVERYWHERE

SHARE THE ROAD
**Motorcycles
and
Scooters**

Rules
Regulations
Rumors



*“Safety isn't expensive,
It's priceless!”*



What about wearing a helmet?

All minors under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle or moped/scooter. (SDCL 32-20-4)

Do I have to wear eye protection?

If you are riding a motorcycle or scooter/moped that is not equipped with a windshield that is high enough to provide eye protection when you're seated on the bike, you must wear eye protection. Eye protection that is tinted or shaded (sunglasses) may not be worn during the time period when headlights must be used (evening/night/sunrise). Clear-lens goggles or glasses should be worn at night or early mornings. (SDCL 32-20-4.1)

How old do I have to be to get a motorcycle license?

You must be at least 14 years old to apply for a SD motorcycle operator's license. The same rules apply to getting motorcycle licenses/endorsements and regular car/truck licenses. (SDCL 32-12-11.1, 32-12-12.1, 32-12-17.1)



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a license to ride a moped or scooter?

Yes! You must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license or permit to operate a moped or scooter. (SDCL 32-20-2)

Do mopeds/scooters need to be registered or licensed in order for me to ride legally?

No. Mopeds and scooters do not have to be registered or licensed in South Dakota unless they have a piston or rotor displacement of 50cc's or more. (SDCL 32-5-1.2)

Do I need to have insurance on a moped or scooter?

All **registered** motor vehicles need insurance. So, if your scooter does not have license plates (is not registered), you would not need insurance. (SDCL 32-35-114)

Do I have to take a test to get a motorcycle license/endorsement?

If you take, and successfully pass, the SD Safety Council's *Basic RiderCourse* prior to licensing your motorcycle, you do not have to take the written and driving part of the motorcycle exam. You will still need to take the eye exam and pay the fees. If you do not take the course, or do not pass it successfully, you are required to take the SD Motorcycle Operator's Exam. (SDCL 32-20-2)

DEFINITIONS

Moped/Scooter: a motor driven cycle equipped with 2 or 3 wheels. The power source is a power drive system that functions automatically and does not need a clutch or to change gears once the drive system is engaged. 49cc is the maximum piston or rotor displacement for a moped or scooter.

Motorcycle: includes all motor operated vehicles with 2 or 3 wheels, an attached motor, a piston or rotor displacement greater than 49cc's, and having a seat or platform for the rider/driver to sit/stand astride or on it.

(Source: SDCL 32-20-1)

FACTS

- In 2011, there were slightly more than 465 mopeds/scooters registered with the South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles.
- Mopeds were involved in 27 crashes in 2011.
- In 2011, there were over 46,400 motorcycles registered with the South Dakota Division of Motor Vehicles.
- Motorcycles were involved in 461 crashes in 2011.

(Data extracted 1/5/12)