

Synopsis of Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles, Other Vehicles and DC Law

Legal requirements to Register and Operate a Non-Traditional Motor Vehicle and Other Vehicles

In the D.C. Code, motor vehicles are defined as vehicles propelled by an internal-combustion engine, electricity, or steam. [1]. All traffic laws apply to motor vehicles, motorized bicycles, except as discussed below or as more fully set forth in the applicable statute or regulation.

Safety Requirements

In order to be registered by the DC Department of Motor Vehicles, motor vehicles must have a certification label that identifies the manufacturer, the date of manufacture, and a statement that the vehicle meets federal safety standards." [2]

Motorcycles, Motor Driven Cycles, Motorized Bicycles and Autocycles

<i>Vehicle Type</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Inspection Required</i>	<i>License Required</i>	<i>Insurance Required</i>	<i>Registration By DMV Required</i>	<i>Helmet Required</i>	<i>Permitted on Sidewalk</i>	<i>Permitted on Bike Lanes</i>	<i>Parking</i>
Motorcycle	Motorcycle is any motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and has two (2) or three (3) wheels in contact with the ground. The term "motorcycle" does not include a tractor, a motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle unless operated at speeds in excess of thirty miles per hour (30 mph), or a three (3)-wheeled motor vehicle with a cab and windshield. [3]	No [4]	Yes. successful completion of a motorcycle demonstration course in any United States' (including territories) or Canadian (including territories) jurisdiction provided that (1) the course was completed within six (6) months of the person's application for a DC motorcycle endorsement, and (2) the person presents a certificate of successful completion the course.	Yes [6]	Yes; \$52. [7]	Yes [8]	No [10]	No [11]	Motor vehicle rules apply, except that some areas are reserved for motorcycles only.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorcycle>

Synopsis of Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles, Other Vehicles and DC Law

			Operator must also have an "M" endorsement on operator's license. [5]							
Motor-Driven Cycle	<p>Motor-driven cycle is a motor vehicle that has: (a) A seat or saddle for the use of the operator and has:</p> <p>(b) Two (2) or three (3) wheels in contact with the ground; (c) A gas, electric, or hybrid motor with a maximum piston or rotor displacement of fifty cubic centimeters (50 cc), or its equivalent, which will propel the device unassisted at a maximum speed no greater than thirty miles per hour (30 mph).</p> <p>NOTE: A motor-driven cycle shall be a motorcycle when operated at speeds in excess of thirty miles per hour (30 mph) and the operator shall be required to have on his or her possession a valid motorcycle endorsement and "(d) A direct or automatic power drive system which requires no clutch or gear shift operation by the operator after the drive system is engaged with the power unit.". [3]</p>	No [4]	Yes [9]	Yes.[6]	Yes. \$30 [7]	Yes. [8]	No except to park [10]	No [11]	May park on sidewalk outside of Central Business District, so long as not attached to a tree, tree box or planting area, does not block path of pedestrians and maintains an ADA compliant clearance from any other obstruction (10)	
				https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moped#Etymology						
Motorized Bicycle	<p>A motorized bicycle is a two or three wheeled vehicle with all of the following characteristics:</p> <p>(a) A post mounted seat or saddle for each person that the device is designed and equipped to carry;</p> <p>"(b) A vehicle with two (2) or three (3) wheels in contact with</p>	No, [12]	No but operator must be at least 16 years of age. [13]	No [6]	No [7]	No restriction	No [14]	Yes [15]	May be parked in a bike rack or on a curb so as not to impede pedestrian traffic. [16]	

Synopsis of Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles, Other Vehicles and DC Law

	<p>the ground, which are at least sixteen inches (16 in.) in diameter; “(c) Fully operative pedals for human propulsion; and “(d) A motor incapable of propelling the device at a speed of more than twenty miles per hour (20 mph) on level ground.</p> <p>NOTE: A motorized bicycle shall be a motorcycle when operated by motor at speeds in excess of thirty miles per hour (30 mph) and the operator shall be required to have on his or her possession a valid motorcycle endorsement. A motorized bicycle shall be a motor-driven cycle when operated by motor at speeds in excess of twenty miles per hour (20 mph) and the operator shall be required to have on his or her possession a valid driver license. [3]</p>				<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorized_bicycle</p>				
Autocycle	<p>A three (3)-wheeled motor vehicle that has a steering wheel, has seating that does not require the operator or passenger to straddle or sit astride, is equipped with safety belts for all occupants, and is manufactured to comply with federal safety requirements for motorcycles. [3]</p>	No [4]	Yes. [9]	Yes [6].	Yes. \$52. [7]	Not required to wear a helmet if there is a non-removable roof and windshield and the vehicle is fully enclosed [8]	No [10]	No [11]	Motor vehicle rules apply. May not park in space designated for motorcycles only.
<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocycle</p>									

Additional Vehicles

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<i>Vehicle Type</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Inspection Required</i>	<i>License Required</i>	<i>Insurance Required</i>	<i>Registration By DMV Required</i>	<i>Helmet Required</i>	<i>Permitted on Sidewalk</i>	<i>Permitted on Bike Lanes</i>	<i>Parking</i>
All-Terrain Vehicles and Dirt Bikes	An all-terrain vehicle ("ATV") is defined as any motor vehicle with three or more tires that is designed primarily for off-road use and which has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator. A dirt bike is defined as any motorcycle designed primarily for off-road use. [17]	N/A. It is a criminal offense to operate an ATV or a dirt bike on any public property in the District. ATVs and dirt bikes are not permitted to be registered in the District. [18]							
		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-terrain_vehicle							
Low Speed Vehicles	Low speed vehicle means a four (4)-wheeled motor vehicle whose speed attainable in one (1) mile is more than twenty (20) miles per hour and not more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour on a paved level surface and which has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than three thousand (3,000) pounds. [3]	Yes [4]	Yes [5]	Yes [6]	Yes; \$72 [7]	Not applicable	No[10]	No [11]	Motor vehicle rules apply.
		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low-speed_vehicle#United_States							
Personal Mobility Devices (PMD)	Personal Mobility Device ("PMD") means a motorized propulsion device designed to transport one person that weighs 60 pounds or more, is a self-balancing, two non-tandem wheeled device, but does not include a battery-operated wheelchair, an electric mobility device or a motorized bicycle. [19]	No. By definition PMDs are not considered motor vehicles. [1] Cannot be driven by anyone under the age of 16. [20]				No	Yes, except PMDs are generally not permitted on sidewalk space in the Central Business District. [21]	No [22]	
		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_transporter							

Synopsis of Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles, Other Vehicles and DC Law

Notes

[1] D.C. Official Code § 50-1501.01

[2] 18 DMCR § 700.9.

[3] 18 DMCR § 9901.

[4] 18 DCMR §§ 601.4(l) and 601.6

[5] D.C. Official Code §1401.01(d), 18 DCMR §§100.2 and 107.13

[6] See D.C. Official Code 31-2402(17)

[7] D.C. Official Code § 50-1501.01, et seq. and 18 DCMR §411.1.

[8] 18 DCMR § 2215.3.

[9] D.C. Official Code §1401.01(d) and 18 DCMR §§100.2.

[10] 18 DCMR §§ 2221.3 and 2405.1(h).

[11] 18 DCMR §§ 2405.1(g).

[12] DC Official Code § 50-1108

[13] D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.01(f) and 18 DCMR §1200.10.

[14] 18 DCMR §§ 1201.18

[15] 18 DCMR §§ 1201.19 and 4033.1

[16] 18 DCMR §§ 1209.6 and 1209.7.

[17] D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.02(2) and (6).

[18] D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.04b.

[19] D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.02 (13)

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Notes
[20] D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.04a(2).
[21] 18 DCMR § 1201.9
[22] 18 DCMR § 4033.1