L43-26

OPERATION ORB

ELECTRIC BIKES AND THE LAW

There are rules that have to be met to ride on UK public roads, are you legal?



ZERO TOLERANCE TO OFF ROAD ASB

What counts as a legal e-bike?

In UK law, a road-legal e-bike is called an Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC). If your bike meets the EAPC rules, it is treated the same as a normal bicycle.

To be a legal EAPC, your bike must:

- Have working pedals that can move the bike forward.
- Have a motor with no more than 250W con nuous power.
- Stop giving electric assistance at 15.5 mph (25 km/h).
- Be ridden only by people aged 14 or over. If your bike meets these rules, you do not need a licence, insurance, registra on, or tax.



What makes an EAPC illegal?

If your electric bike does not meet the EAPC rules, it is legally treated as a moped or motorbike.

This includes bikes that:

- Can move on the throttle alone without pedalling
- Have motors stronger than 250W
- Provide assistance above 15.5 mph
- Have been modified to increase speed or power

If your bike falls into this category, you must:

- *Have a driving licence*
- *Register the bike with the DVLA*
- *Have insurance*
- *Wear a proper motorcycle helmet*

Riding a non-compliant e-bike on the road or cycle paths is illegal and the bike can be seized.

Buying an e-bike safely

Before buying, check:

- Does it have working pedals?
- Is the motor 250W or less?
- Does assistance cut out at 15.5 mph?
- Is it advertised as EAPC compliant?

Where you can ride

Legal EAPCs can be used on:

- Roads
- Cycle lanes
- Shared-use paths
- Private land (with permission)



Need advice?

If you're unsure whether your e-bike is legal, speak to an officer or Scan the QR code for more information and guidance:

If you know anyone who is using an E bike illegally, please contact the police on 101 or give information on anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or email: operationorb@durham.police.uk.

DURHAM CONSTABULARY 101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

CrimeStoppers. 0800 555 111 100% anonymous. Always.

