

香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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21 June 2012

Ms Joanne Mak
Clerk to Transport Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax No. : 2978 7569)

Dear Ms Mak,

**Panel on Transport
Use of Electric Vehicles on Expressways**

In the course of discussion of the item “Use of electric vehicles on expressways” at the Legislative Council Panel on Transport meeting on 6 February 2012, Hon Wong Shing-chi requested the Administration to provide information on the regulation of electric bikes, i.e. bicycles equipped with electric motors. I hereby enclose the relevant information for Members’ reference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Ng', written over a horizontal line.

(Erica Ng)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

FAXED
DATE: 21.6.12

Main Statutory Definitions and Requirements for Motor Cycles

The main statutory definitions and requirements for motor cycles to be used on roads are summarised below.

2. According to the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) (the Ordinance), a bicycle means a vehicle with two wheels designed and constructed to be propelled by the use of pedals. Two-wheeled mechanically propelled vehicles (such as bicycles equipped with electric motors) are regarded as “motor vehicles” and classified as motor cycles under the Ordinance. Any motor vehicle which is to be used on roads must be registered and licensed. In order to be registered and licensed for use on roads, a motor vehicle needs to be roadworthy, that is, it should be suitable and safe for use on public roads. The driver of a motor cycle must also obtain a motor cycle driving licence.

3. In assessing the roadworthiness of a motor vehicle, the Transport Department will examine the motor vehicle in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A) (the C&M Regulations), as well as consider its overall safety and performance on the road, and the impact it has on other traffic or pedestrians.

4. The C&M Regulations require motor cycles to be properly designed and constructed, and be equipped with brakes meeting the required efficiency, accurate speedometers, safety glass, warning horn, mirrors, headlamps, front lamps, rear lamps, stop lamps, etc.

5. Bicycles equipped with electric motors are not normally designed to the same safety and performance standards as conventional motor cycles, and are normally not considered roadworthy for the purposes of registration and licensing. They are also unsuitable for mixing with other bicycles on cycle tracks due to their speed, weight and different method of control.