E-Bike & E-Scooter Law

Quick GUIDE



E-Bike and E-Scooter Definition

Bicycle with Electric Assist: A bicycle that is no more than 36 inches wide, with an electric motor under 750 watts, equipped with operable pedals, meeting the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and meeting the requirements of one of the three classes of E-Bikes below.

Classes of Bicycles with Electric Assist

- **Class 1 E-Bikes:** have an electric motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling, and ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph.

- **Class 2 E-Bikes:** have an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel the E-Bike, and are not capable of providing assistance when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph.

- **Class 3 E-Bikes:** **For use in New York City only.** Class three bicycles with electric assist have an electric motor that may be used exclusively to propel such bicycle, and is not capable of providing assistance when the E-Bike reaches 25 mph.

NOTE: **Speed limit** for Class 1 and Class 2 E-Bikes outside New York City is 20 mph.
Speed limit for all Classes of E-Bikes in New York City is 15 mph

Electric Scooter: Every type of device weighing less than 100 hundred pounds that has handlebars, a floorboard or a seat that could be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor, that can be powered by an electric motor and/or human power and which has a maximum speed of no more than 20 mph.

NOTE: **Speed limit** for E-Scooters in New York is 15 mph.

Classification Label

All E-Bikes and E-Scooters in New York State must have a manufacturer's label prominently affixed stating the wattage of the motor, maximum speed with electric assist, and, if an E-Bike, whether it is class 1, 2, or 3.

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Lawful Operation of E-Bikes and E-Scooters:



E-Bikes and E-Scooters are generally granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to vehicle drivers and bicycle riders. Note the exceptions below.

Operators of E-Bikes and E-Scooters must be at least 16 years old.

Laws for Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter are not uniform throughout New York State. Municipalities may have local laws, including laws that prohibit E-Bikes or E-Scooters, and require helmets. Learn the local laws and ordinances where you ride.

Helmets are required for 16 and 17-year-olds operating E-Scooters and all operators of Class 3 E-Bikes. Helmets are always recommended.

Class 3 E-Bikes may not be operated outside NYC.

E-Bikes and E-Scooters must use bike lanes wherever usable.

Roads with speed limits over 30 mph cannot be used by E-Bikes and E-Scooters, unless allowed by local law or ordinance.

E-Bikes and E-Scooters can not be operated on sidewalks, unless allowed by local law or ordinance.

E-Bikes and E-Scooters cannot be operated on public lands (like parks and multi-use trails) unless allowed by local law or ordinance.

E-Bike and E-Scooter operators must ride in single file on roadways and cannot double up as traditional bicycles can.

E-Scooter operators may not carry passengers.

E-Bike or E-Scooter operation while impaired by drugs or alcohol is illegal.

When operating on trails or bike paths, learn the local trail, municipal or park regulations.

Buyers Beware!

Not everything sold as an E-Bike or E-Scooter is a legal E-Bike or E-Scooter in NY! Some devices marketed as E-Bikes or E-Scooters can go faster or have higher wattage than allowed by law. Those devices may not legally operate on NY roads. Check the definitions on the other side, and make sure what you are purchasing is a legal device.

NYS E-bike Law Summary
https://nybc.net/e-bike

NEW YORK STATE | Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

NEW YORK NYBC BICYCLING COALITION

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