Do you own or ever ride a small motor scooter, bicycle with an electric motor, “pocket bike” or other small low-powered vehicle? While they might not look that different, some are legal for on-road use and some aren’t. Driving an unlicensed or uninsured vehicle on B.C. roads could result in a ticket and driving without insurance could have serious financial consequences.

**Permitted on roads:**

**Limited-speed motorcycle (small motor scooter)**
Must be registered, licensed and insured. May be operated with any class of driver’s licence. Cannot be operated on a learner’s licence other than a Class 6 or 8 motorcycle learner’s licence. Riders are required by law to wear a motorcycle helmet.

A limited-speed motorcycle is defined as:
- No more than 50 cc engine displacement or 1.5 kw motor rating.
- Does not require clutching or shifting after the drive system is engaged.
- Has a maximum speed on level ground of 70 km/h.
- Weighs no more than 95 kg excluding fuel and batteries.
- Wheels must be 25.4 cm in diameter or more.

**Electric motor-assisted cycle**
A motor-assisted cycle is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals and an electric motor. Does not require registration, vehicle licence or insurance. Operator does not require driver’s licence but must be 16 years of age or older.
- Operator is required by law to wear a bicycle helmet.
- May be operated on the road like any bicycle, except where municipal bylaws restrict operation.
- The motor must be electric, rated at 500 watts or less, and be incapable of propelling the cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground, without pedaling.

**Segway™ personal transporter**
While defined in B.C.’s Motor Vehicle Act as a motor vehicle, the Segway™ doesn’t meet provincial equipment safety standards for on-road use.
- It’s not included as a vehicle intended for on-road use under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada).
- Considered only for pedestrian environments.
- Not to be used on a sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.
- May only be operated where B.C.’s Motor Vehicle Act doesn’t apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.

**Not permitted on roads:**

**Motorized scooter or motorized skateboard**
- While the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Canada) recognizes some of them as restricted motor vehicles, they can only be imported for off-road use.
- May only be operated where B.C.’s Motor Vehicle Act doesn’t apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.
- Not to be operated on a sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.
- They don’t meet minimum height specifications for headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, and turn signals. They’re difficult for other motorists to see.
- Transport Canada classifies mini motorcycles as restricted-use motorcycles that can be imported as competition vehicles for closed-course racing only.
- Commonly referred to as “pocket bikes” or “mini choppers,” don’t meet federal safety standards for use on public roads.
- Transport Canada classifies mini motorcycles as restricted-use motorcycles that can be imported as competition vehicles for closed-course racing only.

**Pocket bikes (mini motorcycles)**
- Commonly referred to as “pocket bikes” or “mini choppers,” don’t meet federal safety standards for use on public roads.
- They don’t meet minimum height specifications for headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, and turn signals. They’re difficult for other motorists to see.
- Transport Canada classifies mini motorcycles as restricted-use motorcycles that can be imported as competition vehicles for closed-course racing only.

**NOTE:** Gas-powered cycles and electric cycles without attached pedals don’t qualify as an electric motor-assisted cycle. That means they won’t pass a provincial motor vehicle inspection that would enable them to meet registration, licensing and insurance requirements for on-road use.

*Further details can be found in the Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation, BC Reg. 151/2002.
Permitted on sidewalks, walkways, crosswalks, and paths:

**Motorized wheelchair**

Does not require registration, vehicle licence, insurance or driver's licence.

- Motorized wheelchairs are treated similarly to pedestrians and may be operated anywhere that pedestrians are permitted to walk.
  A motorized wheelchair may only be operated for the purposes for which it was designed.

**Safety tips for operating motorized wheelchairs**

- Ride only where it’s safe and follow the same rules and guidelines as pedestrians.
- Use courtesy and think safety.
- Drive at the same speed as other pedestrian traffic.
- Be extra cautious of possible traffic as you approach driveways and laneways.
- Try to avoid sudden turns.
- Avoid using your motorized wheelchair if you’re taking any medication, drugs or alcohol that may affect your skills or judgment.