



Road Motor Vehicles – Mopeds

FACTSHEET

Fat tyred mopeds and electric mopeds with pedals are road motor vehicles and **must comply** with all applicable Australian Design Rules before they can be supplied to the Australian market.

What is a 'road motor vehicle'?

A road motor vehicle is a motor vehicle designed solely or principally for the transport on public roads of people, animals or goods; or, is permitted to be used on public roads. This definition is set out in the [Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989](#) (the Act).

Please note that if a vehicle was designed as a road motor vehicle it still needs to comply with relevant standards even if you do not intend to use it on public roads.

The [Motor Vehicle Standards \(Road Vehicles\) Determination 2017](#) outlines classes of vehicles that are not considered road vehicles for the purposes of the Act ('non-road' vehicles).

Fat tyred mopeds are road vehicles

Fat tyred mopeds are generally designed to transport one or two people and have two or more wheels and a footboard. This type of vehicle is typically constructed using an aluminium or steel tubular frame, to which a pair of rigid or suspension front forks are installed with handle bars. Typically two or three 8 inch wheels fitted with 18 inch diameter x 9.5 inch wide road tyres are mounted to the frame, one or two of which is fitted with an electric motor(s) to propel the vehicle. Either a fixed or removable, single or double seat is fitted to the vehicle dependent on the manufacturer and model variant. Models are typically capable of speeds over 25 km/h.



They are:

- primarily designed for use on smooth surfaces, including public roads, paved and unpaved public spaces
- available with additional road-going features, such as direction indicators, brake lights and rear vision mirrors
- lacking novelty features, such as tilting technology, being self-balancing or off-road characteristics
- usually fitted with an electric motor(s) in excess of 200 watts

Electric mopeds with pedals are road vehicles

Electric mopeds with pedals are principally designed for the transport on public roads of people. Road motor vehicle characteristics are purposely incorporated into this vehicle's design features giving them

the appearance and operational functions of certified “L” category road motor vehicles. Shortened pedal cranks incapable of generating sufficient force to overcome the vehicle’s inertia without assistance from the electric motor are fitted. Electric motor(s) greater than 200 watts are usually fitted to propel the vehicle over speeds of 25 km/h.



They have:

- usually been fitted with numerous road features, including road tyres, indicator lights and stop lights
- not been demonstrated to meet relevant ADRs
- not been designed as a [bicycle](#) or a [power assisted pedal cycle](#)
- not been designed to meet the [pedalec definition](#)

Certification and supply to the market

The Australian Government maintains a system that generally requires road vehicles meet national standards as set out in the [Australian Design Rules \(ADRs\)](#). Fat tyred motorised mopeds and motorised mopeds with pedals are generally categorised as [“L” category](#) vehicles and are required to be certified and comply with all applicable ADRs before they can be supplied to the Australian market.

Compliance obligations

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities monitors and enforces compliance with the Act by encouraging voluntary compliance, undertaking informed risk-based activities and applying proportionate enforcement responses when non-compliance is detected.

Importers should be aware that providing false and misleading information to the Australian government is a serious offence and can result in the imposition of penalties. Under the Act there are also offences that may apply if a non-standard road vehicle is imported or supplied, or if a road vehicle is imported or supplied without an identification plate. Where non-compliance is identified, appropriate enforcement responses will be applied.

Further information

Information about the criteria for [‘non-road’ vehicles and examples of ‘non-road’ vehicles](#) can be found on the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities’ website.

Please contact the Vehicle Safety Standard (VSS) Branch in the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities on 1800 815 272 or vimports@infrastructure.gov.au if you have any questions about information in this fact sheet.