



motorcycle roadworthiness

Before you ride you need to make sure that your motorcycle is roadworthy and registered. A roadworthy motorcycle is one that is safe to ride and meets the standards required by law.

It is an offence to cause or permit another person to ride an unregistered motorcycle on a road or road-related area. There could be significant financial implications for the rider and registered operator of the motorcycle because compulsory third party insurance is not valid when a motorcycle is unregistered. This means you could be held personally liable for compensation to any person injured as a result of a crash.

Your motorcycle must be registered, and there are severe penalties for riding an unregistered motorcycle.

Regularly check and service your motorcycle to ensure there are no fluid leaks and the oil and water levels are correct.

Always wear the correct protective clothing while riding because it will greatly reduce the severity of injuries sustained in a crash.

Some of the most important rules about motorcycles are described here. If you have any doubt about the rules that apply to your motorcycle, contact the MVR on 1300 654 628.

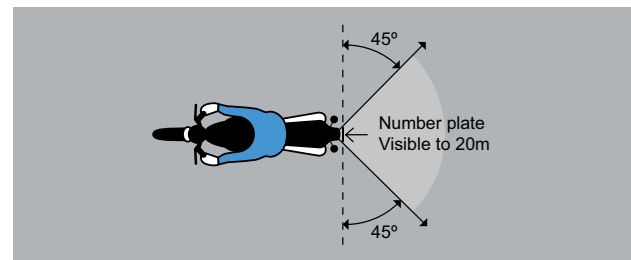
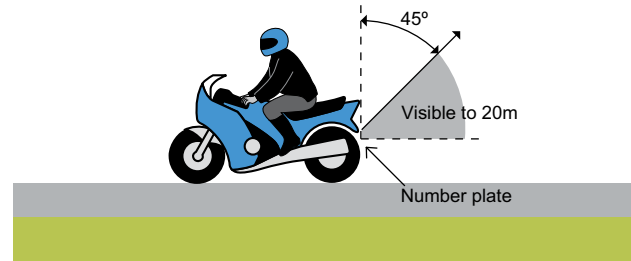
Number plates

An NT-issued number plate is required on the back for motorcycles. When registration has expired, the plates must be given back to the MVR.

Number plates on the motorcycle must be:

- issued by the registration authority (MVR)
- clearly readable; not dirty, worn or damaged
- clearly visible at night by way of a light
- able to be seen and read clearly from anywhere within a 45-degree arc of the motorcycle's centreline, at a distance of at least 20 metres (see diagrams).

Number plates cannot be hidden by anything (such as 'L' or 'P' plates, tow bar or anything being carried).



It is an offence to:

- alter number plates in any way
- attach a number plate to any vehicle other than the plates issued by MVR
- use a number plate cover that is not flat, clear and untinted (number plate covers which have lines across them are not considered to be clear).

Do not obscure any part of your number plate—heavy penalties apply.

Take special care with 'L' and 'P' plate holders.

Safety check before riding

Check your:

- lights (headlights, brake lights, indicators)
- brakes
- horn
- tyres
- fuel
- oil
- chain.

Adjust the controls of the motorcycle so they are right for you. You should be able to reach all the controls easily without being cramped.

Make sure that your lights work, are clean and can be clearly seen. You must not ride any motorcycle at night if the lights are not working.

Tyres

Your motorcycle's tyres must be in good condition and have a tread at least 1.5mm deep across the tread surface. Motorcycles must not have re-grooved tyres, unless the tyre was manufactured to be re-grooved.

Keep the tyres inflated to the pressure recommended by the manufacturer or they may overheat and fail. The sidewalls of the tyres should not have any cracks or bumps. If your tyres wear unevenly, there may be a problem with the steering or suspension.

Tyre pressures are critical to a motorcycle's handling. Under-inflated tyres significantly increase the risk of crashing.

