

E- bikes and the law

If you're 14 or over, you can ride electric bikes that meet certain requirements.

These electric bikes are officially known as 'ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED PEDAL CYCLES' (EAPC). You don't need a licence to ride one and it doesn't need to be registered, taxed or insured in the UK or many other European countries (except Northern Ireland!).

What counts as an EAPC

- It must have pedals that can be used to propel it.
- It must display one item from each of the following:
 - the power output or manufacturer of the motor
 - the battery's voltage or maximum speed of the bike
- Its electric motor: must have a maximum power output of 250 watts and should not be able to propel the bike when it's travelling more than 15.5mph (25kph)
- It can have more than 2 wheels (for example, a tricycle).

Electric bikes that can be propelled without pedalling

If the EAPC can be electrically propelled without pedalling, it's known as a 'twist and go EAPC'. A twist and go EAPC must be 'type approved' to make sure it's safe to use on the road. A type approved vehicle will have a plate showing its type approval number.

Where you can ride

If a bike meets the EAPC requirements it's classed as a normal pedal bike. This means you can ride it on cycle paths and on any roads where pedal bikes are allowed.

Other kinds of electric bike

Any electric bike that doesn't meet the EAPC rules needs to be registered and taxed. You'll need a driving licence to ride one, wear a crash helmet and over the age of 16. The vehicle will also need to be **type approved** to make sure it's safe to use on the road.