

Background Information on the Motorcycle Manoeuvres Test

In September 2000 the European Commission adopted a Directive (56/2000/EC) that required all Member States to introduce a motorcycle manoeuvre test. The Driving Licence Regulations will be amended to bring the new test into effect from 08th December 2008.

The motorcycle manoeuvres test is intended to ensure that motorcycle test candidates can demonstrate that they are competent in the control of their machines at a more demanding level than is currently the case. The aim of the test is to improve the standard of road safety for motorcycle and moped riders and ultimately all road users.

Currently to obtain a motorcycle driving licence a candidate must pass a theory test and the on-road test. From 08th December 2008 the motorcycle test for categories A, A1 & P will be split into 2 separate tests:

- Motorcycle manoeuvres test; and
- The on-road test

This means that there will be three tests, which must be taken and passed in the following order:

1. Theory test;
2. Motorcycle manoeuvres test; and
3. The on-road test test.

The motorcycle manoeuvres test will consist of the following exercises:

- A slow riding exercise, where the candidate rides alongside the examiner at walking pace.
- A slalom and figure of '8' exercise.
- Walking and ridden 'U' turn exercises and use of the motorcycle stands.
- A curve, ridden in second or third gear at a minimum speed of at least 30 km/h (18.75mph).
- A combined avoidance and braking exercise at a minimum speed of 50 km/h (31.25mph).
- An emergency braking exercise at a minimum speed of 50 km/h (31.25 mph).

The manoeuvres test will last approximately thirty minutes and will be available at the following DVA centres: Ballymena, Craigavon, Downpatrick, Londonderry (Newbuildings), Mallusk and Omagh.

Link to EU Directive - [COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2000/56/EC](#)