



Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS)

From 14 January 2013, the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) replaced the 250cc restriction on R-E class motorcycle licence holders with the following criteria:

- A power-to-weight ratio not exceeding 150 kilowatts per tonne (kW/t); and
- Maximum engine capacity not exceeding 660cc.

Why did Western Australia switch to LAMS?

With new technology resulting in high performance motorcycles under 250cc, road safety experts suggest that LAMS is a better way to restrict inexperienced riders. Engine capacity restrictions alone are ineffective at limiting inexperienced riders' access to more powerful motorcycles and thus compromise their safety.

Additionally, the Department of Transport (DoT) undertook a state-wide stakeholder consultation on motorcycle licensing in 2010. During this Consultation, strong support was reported for the implementation of LAMS in WA. LAMS will increase the range, frame size and style of suitable motorcycles available to inexperienced riders in WA.

Where can I find a list of LAMS approved motorcycles?

You can access the LAMS approved motorcycles list from the DoT website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/lams.

Has LAMS been introduced in other states?

Yes. All Australian States, except for Australian Capital Territory (ACT), have a common LAMS model. ACT has implemented a slightly different model of LAMS that is based solely on power-to-weight ratio.

What has happened to my existing R-E class licence?

Holders of an R-E class licence prior to LAMS being implemented will automatically be authorised to ride LAMS motorcycles.

What does the power-to-weight ratio mean?

The power-to-weight ratio is a measure of a vehicle's performance. It is a better indicator of motorcycle performance than engine capacity alone.

Power-to-weight can be uniformly applied to all existing or new motorcycles irrespective of their power source hence also providing for licensing of alternatively powered vehicles.

The power output (kilowatts) is determined by dividing the tare weight of the motorcycle + 90kg (for rider and fuel). The result is then multiplied by 1000 (to convert to kW per tonne), see example below. Note:

- The manufacturer determines the engine power and tare weight of the motor cycle.
- 90kg is the laden weight used in Australian Design Rule ADR 33 'Brake Systems for Motor Cycles and Mopeds'.

$$\frac{\text{Engine power (kW)}}{\text{Tare weight: (i.e. mass of motorcycle in kg) + 90kg (80kg rider weight + 10kg for fuel)}} \times 1000$$

Will motorcyclists be required to calculate the power-to-weight ratio?

No. There will be no need for motorcyclists to calculate the power-to-weight ratio as a LAMS approved motorcycles list is available on the DoT website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/lams.

Are there any motorcycles that were previously allowed to be ridden on an R-E class licence that are prohibited under LAMS?

Yes. There are six 250cc high-powered race replica motorcycles that exceed the maximum 150 kW/t power-to-weight ratio that are prohibited. These motorcycles are capable of high speeds and rapid acceleration and thus are unsuitable for inexperienced riders. These motorcycles are:

- Suzuki - RGV250
- Kawasaki - KR250 (KR-1 and KR1s models)
- Honda - NSR250
- Yamaha - TZR250
- Aprilia - RS250

What happened to R-E class licence holders who rode one of the above prescribed motorcycles under LAMS?

R-E class licence holders riding one of the excluded models had 12 months (from the date that LAMS was implemented) to either progress to an unrestricted motorcycle licence (R) or change to a LAMS approved motorcycle.

How does an R-E class licence holder progress to an unrestricted R class licence?

Following a minimum two year restricted licence phase on R-E class motorcycles, R-E licence holders will be required to pass a Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) on an R class vehicle.

How does LAMS affect R class licence holders?

Unrestricted R class licence holders are not affected by LAMS. Unrestricted licence holders are entitled to ride any motorcycle.

How does LAMS impact R-N class (mopeds only) licence holders?

R-N class licence holders are not impacted by LAMS.

Can an R-E class licence holder ride an electric or hybrid motorcycle?

Yes, provided the motorcycle is LAMS approved.

How do I know if a motorcycle is LAMS approved?

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are riding a LAMS approved motorcycle. You can see if your motorcycle is on the LAMS approved motorcycles list on the DoT website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/lams. If a motorcycle is not on the list, then it can only be ridden on an unrestricted R class licence.

I built my own motorcycle. How can I find out if I can ride it under my R-E class licence?

You can apply in writing to DoT to obtain an assessment as to whether your motorcycle is suitable to be ridden on an R-E class licence. Please visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs to find out how to arrange an assessment. Should your motorcycle be assessed to meet the LAMS criteria, you will be issued an individual inspection certificate of compliance so that you may legally ride your motorcycle on your R-E class licence. This will not result in inclusion of your motorcycle on the WA LAMS list as this only includes standard unmodified motorcycles makes, models and variants.

For more information

Telephone: 13 11 56

Fax: 1300 669 995

Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au