

## **We have been asked if you can ride an electric bike on a ban**

**Wikipedia** says -

In the United Kingdom, electric bicycles are classed as standard bicycles providing the motor's maximum continuous rated power output does not exceed 250W, and cuts out once the bike reaches 15.5mph (24.9km/h). It must also be under 40kg (88lb). This means the rider does not require a license to use them, however riders must be of at least 14 years of age.

**Atmosphere EBikes** - [www.electricbikes.org.uk](http://www.electricbikes.org.uk) said -

An electric bike is classed as a bicycle as it fits in with European legislation on power and speed regulations. They have to be ones that have En15194 certification to pass these restriction - 250watt motor and 15.5mph top assisted speed. Anything over this is classed as a motorbike and falls into the normal rules that apply to motorbikes.

### **Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Regulations**

These regulations were enacted in 1983 (Statutory Instrument No. 1168) in order to define a new type of vehicle under the Road Traffic Acts. Other legislation says who is permitted to ride an EAPC (anyone over the age of 14), where they may ride it (not defined, but presumed to be anywhere you can ride a normal pedal cycle) and how they ride it (just like a pedal cycle). See the pages on Construction & Use and Lighting regulations for more about that. The Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations simply set out the minimum criteria such a vehicle must satisfy - or else it will be regarded as some sort of electric motorbike (taxed, insured, used only by a licensed, helmeted rider etc.). These criteria are as follows:

- The vehicle must not weigh more than 40 kg if a solo bicycle, or 60 kg in the case of a tandem or tricycle.
- The vehicle must be fitted with pedals, by which it can be propelled.
- The vehicle must not be fitted with any sort of motor other than an electric motor.
- The continuous rated output of the motor must not exceed 200 watts if fitted to a solo bicycle, or 250 watts in the case of a tandem or tricycle.
- The motor must not propel the vehicle when it is travelling faster than 15 mph.

Not included in the above list, but required by Construction & Use regulations (so they ought to be listed since you can't legally use the thing otherwise!) are the following additional criteria:

- The vehicle must be fitted with a plate (where you can easily read it) showing the manufacturer's name, the nominal battery voltage and motor power output.
- The power switch or control must default to off, requiring a constant intervention from the rider in order to maintain power assistance. (No power without pedalling, as required in some other countries, also satisfies this requirement.)

Note that these definitions do not include cycles with more than three wheels. So you cannot electrically assist a quadricycle without it becoming some kind of motor vehicle.

Vehicle weight, for the purpose of these regulations, is the weight of the cycle without a rider and no load other than 'the loose tools and equipment with which it is normally equipped'. Nominal battery voltage and continuous rated output are defined with reference to BS1727: 1971. Apparently this lets the peak output be a little higher than the number of watts specified above.

**However - beware -**

You can be convicted of drink (or drug) driving on an electric bike.

It begs the question if you were convicted on an electric bike after being banned within the last 10 years would that make you a 'High Risk Offender' and attract a 3 year ban? - We believe it would.