

## Power-assisted Bicycle Regulations

A power-assist bicycle is designed to be propelled with the combination of muscular power and power assist from an electric motor. Pursuant to section 312 of the *Highway Traffic Act*, regulations for Power-assisted Bicycles will be published in the Royal Gazette on Prince Edward Island and be effective as of July 10, 2021.

### Why develop Power-assisted Bicycle Legislation?

The e-bike market has grown by leaps and bounds around the world and Prince Edward Island is no exception. The rising popularity of e-bikes, and the larger cargo e-bikes, has raised concerns about the safety of these vehicles and their close proximity with pedestrians and vulnerable road users.

### What does Power-Assisted Bicycle Legislation Do?

PEI's power-assisted bicycle legislation adds and clarifies the definition of "power-assisted bicycle" in regulations associated with three PEI statutes: the *Highway Traffic Act*, the *Trails Act*, and the *Off-Highway Vehicles Act*. For a closer look at the specifics of the actual legislation, visit: [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)

### What is a Power-Assisted Bicycle?

Power-assist bicycles are motorized devices that can look like a conventional bicycle, moped, scooter or limited-speed motorcycle. On PEI, a power-assist bicycle is defined as a pedal-driven bicycle of conventional exposed fork-and-frame bicycle design and appearance with an integrated electric motor used to assist propulsion. Power-assist bicycles are also called electric bikes or e-bikes.



#### On PEI, power-assist bicycles must have:

- steering handlebars;
- two or three wheels that touch the ground;
- functioning pedals;
- an electric motor (but not a gasoline motor) of 500 Watts or less;
- a maximum speed of 32 km/h;
- a maximum weight of 120 kg;
- wheels with a diameter not less than 406.4 mm; and,
- a label permanently affixed from the manufacturer in both official languages stating that the device is a power-assisted bicycle and adheres to provincial legislation.

#### On PEI, power-assist bicycles must be equipped with:

- a mounted integral head lamp and tail lamp;
- reflex reflectors;
- brakes on all wheels or on each axle;
- an operable bell or horn; and,
- a mechanism separate from the accelerator controller that allows the operator to turn the motor on and off while operating the bicycle or prevents the motor from turning on or off before the device attains a speed of 3 km/hr.

It is illegal to modify your power-assisted bicycle's motor to make it more powerful or to increase the speed of your bicycle.

## What is required to operate a Power-assist Bicycle?

**NOTE** No person shall operate a power-assisted bicycle as if it were a bicycle where the driver's license of the person is suspended or cancelled under the Act or the person is otherwise disqualified or prohibited from operating a motor vehicle or obtaining a driver's license under the Criminal Code of Canada or the Highway Traffic Act.

To operate a power-assisted bicycle, you need to:

- be 16 years of age or older;
- wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet with a chin strap; and,
- keep the power-assisted bicycle in good working order; and,
- follow the same rules of the road as regular cyclists.

To be compliant, no person shall operate a power-assisted bicycle on a PEI highway unless that person is wearing a protective helmet approved for use by the Canada Standards Association, or the standards as specified in the *Highway Traffic Act* Bicycle Safety Helmet Regulations (EC329/03).

## What is not required to operate a Power-Assisted Bicycle?

- a driver's licence;
- vehicle registration and insurance\*; or,
- license plate.

## What is the difference between Power-Assisted Bicycles and Motor-Assisted Bicycles (Mopeds)?

### Power-Assist Bicycle

- Electric motor.
- Maximum power is 500 W.
- Maximum speed is 32 km/h.
- Affixed manufacturer's compliance label.
- Do not need to be registered.
- Wearing a bike helmet is mandatory.
- For more information check – [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca) Power-Assisted Bicycle Regulations

### Motor-Assist Pedal Bicycle (Moped)

- Electric motor or a motor having a piston displacement no greater than 50 cm<sup>3</sup>.
- Maximum speed is 50 km/h.
- Affixed Transport Canada compliance label.
- They must be registered.
- Wearing a motorcycle helmet is mandatory.
- For more information check – [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca) Mopeds (Motor Assisted Bicycles) Regulations

## Where can I Operate a Power-assisted Bicycle?



You can ride your power-assisted bicycle on most roads, trails, active transportation pathways and highways where conventional bikes are permitted, with some exceptions.

Operating a power-assisted bicycle equipped with a combustion engine (such as a gasoline engine) on the trails, highways, or on the Confederation Trail is prohibited, adding such an engine converts the bicycle into a handcrafted moped or a low speed motorcycle.



They have a similar appearance, especially when the removable pedals are taken off. However, mopeds must be registered, whereas power-assisted bikes do not.

You **cannot** ride a power-assisted bicycle:

- on any highway where access to pedestrians or bicycles is prohibited under any Act, regulation or municipal bylaw;
- on municipal roads, including sidewalks, *where bicycles* are banned under municipal by-laws;
- on municipal roads, sidewalks, bike paths, bike trails or bike lanes *where power-assisted bicycles* are prohibited.

<b>Allowed in a public park</b>	No, but can be authorized according to municipal bylaws.
<b>Allowed on a sidewalk or walkway</b>	No
<b>Allowed on natural or paved bike lanes</b>	Yes
<b>Allowed on a highway</b>	Yes, but only if a bicycle lane is provided or, On the shoulder of the highway if no bicycle lane is provided or, As close to the edge of the roadway as possible if there is no bike lane or shoulder.
<b>Allowed on non-motorized, natural surface trails (mountain bike trails)</b>	No, but can be authorized
<b>Allowed on the Confederation Trail</b>	No, unless a person is operating the power-assisted bicycle between April 1 and November 30 <sup>th</sup> of the same year.

**Make sure you're riding legally.**

	<b>Power-Assisted Bicycle</b>	<b>Motor-Assisted Bicycle and Limited Speed Motorcycle (LSM)</b>
		
<b>Description</b>	Combine bicycle pedal power with electric motor assistance.	Are low-powered motorcycles (that is, mopeds and scooters). Mopeds rely on motor power and maybe equipped with pedals / LSMs rely on motor power and are generally not equipped with bicycle-

		style pedals.
<b>Considered a Motor Vehicle</b>	No	Yes
<b>Age Range</b>	At least 16 years of age.	At least 16 years of age.
<b>Power</b>	Electric motor (power output not exceeding 500 watts in total) and bicycle-style pedals.	Gas engine 50 cc or less <i>or</i> electric motor less than 1,500 watts.
<b>Maximum Speed</b>	32 km/h on level ground.	50 km/h on level ground.
<b>Registration, License Plate and Insurance*</b>	None required. (insurance may be available under a homeowner's policy)	Yes. An LSM / Moped must be registered and insured as a motor vehicle.
<b>Driver's License</b>	No driver's licence is needed.	You must have a driver's license
<b>Class</b>	None	Minimum Class 8
<b>Helmet</b>	Must wear a bike helmet.	Must wear a motorcycle helmet.
<b>Rules of the Road</b>	Subject to the same rights and duties as the driver of a motor vehicle, such as obeying all traffic lights and control devices.  Bicycle safety rules must be followed.  See Section 194 of the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i> and the Power-Assisted Bicycle Regulations:	Subject to the same rights and duties of a motor vehicle, such as obeying all traffic lights and control devices.
<b>Confederation Trail</b>	Yes(conditions)	No
<b>Active Transportation Pathway Access</b>	Yes (conditions)	No
<b>Public Streets or Highways</b>	Yes (conditions)	Yes

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q1: What safety requirements are in place for power-assisted bicycles?

To operate a power-assisted bicycle on Prince Edward Island's public roads, Confederation Trail and Active Transportation Pathway the following vehicle safety and operator requirements are in place :

- Power-assisted Bicycles must not weigh more than 120 kg (weight of bike and battery).
- All operators must be at least 16 years of age.
- All operators must wear an approved bicycle or motorcycle helmet.
- All electrical terminals must be completely covered.
- The minimum wheel diameter is 406.4 mm.
- No modifications to the motor to allow it to exceed a power output greater than 500W and a speed greater than 32 km/h.

The battery and motor must be securely fastened to the vehicle to prevent them from moving while the e-bike is operating.

**Q2: Can I remove the pedals from my power-assisted bicycle?**

No. If you remove the pedals from your power-assisted bicycle, it is no longer considered to be a power-assisted bicycle because it does not conform with the *Highway Traffic Act* Power-Assisted Bicycle Regulations definition of a power-assisted bicycle. Removing the pedals makes it an illegal vehicle. You could be ticketed for operating a motor vehicle without registration and insurance.

**Q3: Can I modify my power-assisted bicycle so it can go faster than 32 km/h?**

No. Modifying your power-assisted bicycle to increase its speed beyond 32 km/h will no longer qualify it as a power-assisted bicycle. . You may then face moped or limited-speed motorcycle licensing, registration and insurance requirements.

**Q4: My power-assisted bicycle weighs more than 120 kg. Can I ride it in Prince Edward Island?**

Currently, only power-assisted bicycles weighing 120 kg and under are allowed on PEI's public roads as power-assisted bicycles. A weight greater than 120 kg will no longer qualify as a power-assisted bicycle. You may then face moped or limited-speed motorcycle licensing, registration and insurance requirements.

**Q5: Can I operate a power-assisted bicycle if my driver's licence has been suspended?**

No. If your license is suspended because of a conviction that has resulted in a driving prohibition under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, you cannot legally operate a power-assisted bicycle. If your license is suspended or cancelled under the Highway Traffic Act, or if you are otherwise disqualified or prohibited from operating a motor vehicle or obtaining a driver's license under the Act, you cannot legally operate a power-assisted bicycle.

**Q6: Can I carry passengers on my power-assisted bicycle?**

You can carry passengers on your power-assisted bicycle if it was designed and manufactured for more than one person. Passengers are not allowed on a bicycle designed for one person.

**Q7: What are the penalties for riding a power-assisted bicycle while impaired?**

Under the *Criminal Code of Canada* , a power-assisted bicycle is classified as a motor vehicle, so penalties for impaired driving under the Criminal Code of Canada do apply.

**Q8: Can municipalities pass by-laws prohibiting power-assisted bicycles?**

Yes. Municipalities have the ability to prohibit where power-assisted bicycles may travel on roads, paths, trails and other property under their jurisdiction.

**NOTE : The information provided is intended as a summary of rules related to Power-Assisted Bicycles. For exact wording please refer to the PEI Highway Traffic Act / Trails Act and their associated Regulations or visit the following website : [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)**

