

# Washington Motorcycle Laws

This list of laws is provided by Puget Sound Safety and is not a complete listing of laws regarding motorcycles additional requirements may apply. To read additional law requirements please visit the Washington State Legislative [Laws and Agency Rules](#) website.

This reference list is divided into three sections for easy reference:

1. [Rider](#)
2. [Operating \(riding\)](#)
3. [Equipment](#)

Rider	
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.505</a>	Special endorsement fees, amount and distribution
<a href="#">WAC 204-10-026</a>	Eye protection
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.530</a>	Mirrors, helmet & eye protection, no passengers under five years old
<a href="#">RCW 46.04.330</a>	Motorcycle definition
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.500</a>	Motorcycle endorsement exceptions
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.510</a>	Motorcycle instruction permit
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.530</a>	Motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, mopeds, electric-assisted bicycles - Helmets, other equipment - Children - Rules
<a href="#">RCW 46.20.515</a>	Motorcycle skills testing

Operating – Riding	
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.612</a>	Riding; one leg must be on each side of motorcycle
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.670</a>	Driving with wheels off roadway
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.608</a>	Lane splitting prohibited
<a href="#">WAC 468-510-010</a>	High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.425</a>	Minimum speed and passing
<a href="#">RCW.61.120</a>	Limitations on overtaking on the left
<a href="#">RCW.46.61.608</a>	Operating motorcycle lined for traffic (no lane splitting)
<a href="#">RCW.46.61.660</a>	Carrying persons/animals outside of vehicle

Equipment	
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.611</a>	Handlebars; no higher than 30” above seat
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.523</a>	Headlamps
<a href="#">RCW 46.16A.200</a>	License plate mounted horizontally
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.522</a>	Lights must be on when vehicle is in motion
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.537</a>	Modified exhaust
<a href="#">WAC 173-62-030</a>	Motorcycle sound testing
<a href="#">RCW 46.61.610</a>	Riding; seats and foot pegs required
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.525</a>	Tail lamps, reflectors, stop lamps
<a href="#">RCW 46.37.420</a>	Tires – restrictions

For insurance requirements in Washington, visit the Department of Licensing web page.

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## **Definitions:**

### **What does RCW mean?**

RCW stands for the Revised Code of Washington. The RCW is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force in Washington State. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor or enacted via the initiative process).

### **What does WAC mean?**

WAC stands for the Washington Administrative Code. The WAC's are rules generated by a State Agencies. Where RCW is a law enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor a WAC is the rule that is implements/enforces the law.

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