



Institute of Advanced Motorists

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Fact Sheet 12/001

SCOOTER RIDERS SHOULD BE STYLISH - BUT SAFE TOO

Being a good rider is about being a safe and uninjured rider. The time you save commuting by scooter is too valuable to spend in a casualty ward! Passing the basic 'L' test is just the beginning of the learning process, not the end of it. That means that you must be prepared to accept that ***you never stop learning*** and take responsibility for improving your riding skills.

The essence of good riding is good observation, anticipation and planning. This applies equally to those riding a scooter or other small motorbike as it does to those riding the big "super bikes". Even though the performance and characteristics are different, the basic safe riding skills are the same.

Questions to ask yourself

Am I properly dressed?

You need not only eye protection and a helmet, but also protective clothing including proper footwear. (Rule 67 Highway Code)

Do you concentrate properly and avoid distractions ?

By concentrating, you will be able to deal with potentially dangerous situations in a controlled way, rather than just reacting to them.

Are your observation skills used to read the road ahead and anticipate and react correctly to developing situations ?

Observation means seeing and seeking the information in the riding environment to help you to maintain a sensible level of safety. Remember, if you can't see something, you can't do anything about it.

Do you position your scooter properly to improve the view ?

Position for vision, but never sacrifice safety to improve your vision.

Do you maintain a safe distance from other vehicles and are you always able to stop safely in the distance that you can see to be clear ?

Your speed at any time must always be related to the extent of clear road that you can see and your ability to stop safely within that distance. Always have a good safety gap between you and the vehicle in front, especially at night and in the wet.

Are you aware of what is happening behind you all the time ?

Effective all round observation is vital. You must always know what's happening behind you - it could become very important if you have to stop suddenly.

Do you use the controls with sensitivity ?

Smooth handling of your scooter will help you to maintain proper control and to make safe progress.

Do you ride defensively, but with deliberation ?

You are responsible for your safety. Ride defensively, not in an aggressive or intimidating way.

Do you notice changes in road surfaces that could affect the handling of your scooter ?

You are very vulnerable on two wheels. Take note of any changes in the condition of the road surface that might affect your braking, steering or acceleration.

Do you approach and obey all signals and road markings ?

Road signs, traffic lights and road markings are all put there to help you. If someone's gone to the trouble of painting the word "SLOW" on the road, they're trying to get your attention to a potentially hazardous situation.