

NEWSLETTER

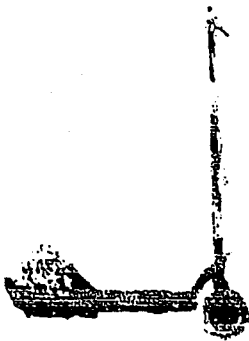
Field Operations Support Services



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Motorized Scooter Enforcement



The "motorized scooter" is becoming a very popular mode of transportation, especially with teens. Several recent changes in the California Vehicle Code have been made which affect the operation of a "motorized scooter" on the highway. This Newsletter will provide an overview of the Vehicle Code requirements and other unique enforcement

aspects pertaining to these scooters.

OVERVIEW

A motorized scooter is defined as any two-wheeled device that has handlebars, is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, and is powered by an electric motor, or source other than an electric motor, capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion (407.5 V.C.) As a result, neither a driver's license or vehicle registration is required to operate a motorized scooter.

Vehicle Code sections 21220 through 21235 incorporate a majority of the laws related to the operation of motorized scooters. Highlights include restrictions that the operator must be at least 16 years of age, stay off of sidewalks, and wear a helmet. Another important factor is that these scooters are not permitted on highways with a speed limit in excess of 25mph (except for certain bike lanes).

Scooter users are exempt from financial responsibility requirements and scooter makers are required to warn buyers that other insurance policies (homeowner, etc.) may not cover accidents.

The following sections provided are only brief excerpts from the vehicle code. Before utilizing a section, be familiar with the entire text to help avoid confusion or the use of an improper section.

Local municipal codes may contain additional restrictions on the operation of motor scooters.

VEHICLE CODE LAWS

- 21221.5 CVC - DUI on a motorized scooter.
- 21223 CVC - Operating during hours of darkness without a headlight, red reflector to the rear, and side reflectors.
- 21228(a)CVC - Failure to ride as close as practical to right edge of roadway.
- 21229(a) CVC - Failure to ride within an established bicycle lane.
- 21229(b) CVC - Exiting a bicycle lane without signaling.
- 21235(a) CVC - Operating a motorized scooter unless it is equipped with a brake.
- 21235(b)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter on a highway that is posted above 25 MPH (except in a bicycle lane).
- 21235(c)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter without a properly fitted helmet.
- 21235(d)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter when operator is under 16 years of age.
- 21235(e)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter with a passenger.
- 21235(f)CVC - Carrying packages/bundles that prevents the operator from having at least one hand on the handlebars.
- 21235(g)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter on a sidewalk.
- 21235(h)CVC - Operating a motorized scooter on a highway with the handle bars above the operator's shoulders.
- 21235(i)CVC - Leaving a motorized scooter parked on its side on a sidewalk or parked in a way that blocks pedestrian traffic.
- 21235(j)CVC - Attaching by any means to another vehicle while operated on a roadway.
- 24003 CVC - Unlawful lighting. If equipped with lighting equipment, it must meet code.
- 22411 CVC - Operating a motor scooter at a speed in excess of 15 MPH.
- 27400 CVC - Wearing of headsets or earplugs.
- 27602 CVC - Watching television while driving.
- 27455(b)(1) CVC - Bald tires.

Questions or comments, please contact the Traffic Services Detail. (562) 467-1152