



Posted by John Kohler

Maine Motorcycle Safety Program Coordinator

July 16, 2018

3 Wheel Designation

Dear Colleagues,

We are interested to know how your States designate 3-Wheel Motorcycles.

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?

Any information/ideas would be appreciated.

Ride Safe and Ride Smart,

John Kohler

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MARYLAND

John,

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?
No. They are classified as motorcycles. Hacks are also classified as motorcycles.

2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?
If an individual tests on a 3-wheeled motorcycle they receive a Class M license with a "J" restriction limiting them to only operating the type of vehicle they tested on.

3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?
No. They are a 3-wheeled motorcycle, a.k.a. reverse trike.

4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?
They are classified as Autocycles.

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VERMONT

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles? Three-wheeled motorcycles are registered as a motorcycle

2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles? Individuals passing the skills test on a three-wheeled motorcycle receives a motorcycle endorsement restricted to three-wheeled operation only

3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration? No

4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot? This vehicle is classified as an Autocycle. Autocycles are registered as a motorcycle. The operator only needs to have a valid driver's license. A motorcycle endorsement is not required.

Let me know if you need any additional information.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hi John,

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles? NO
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles? YES-test on one= restricted to 3 wheels
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration? NO
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot? Autocycle: Registered as a MC, Operator license to drive.

Hope this helps.

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Ride Safe--Ride Well--Ride Traine

WASHINGTON

John:

Here are the answers for Washington:

1. No, they are classified and registered as a motorcycle.
2. Yes, a 3W MC requires a separate and distinct 3W endorsement.
3. No, they are classified the same.
4. The Polaris Slingshot is a motorcycle since it has three wheels. It does not require an endorsement because of the seat belts, steering wheel, etc. It does still require the driver/rider to wear a helmet.

Hope this helps,
Bryan

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NEW JERSEY

In NJ:

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles? NO
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles? NO, just a restriction to only ride 3-wheel (if tested on one)
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration? No
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot? Autocycle: Registered as a MC, need a basic DL to operate

Lori Sannella

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ILLINOIS

John,

In Illinois we follow the general guidelines and rules as noted below each question.

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?
Yes, an autocycle is a three-wheeled vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the driver to straddle or sit astride it. This type of vehicle may be operated on Illinois roadways when correctly titled and registered with the Secretary of State. The operator of the vehicle must have a valid Illinois driver's license to legally operate the vehicle. No motorcycle endorsement is required. (See correction in next post below)
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?
Yes, holders of a unrestricted class "M" endorsement can ride any 2 or 3 wheeled vehicle. Holders of a class "M" endorsement with a J11 restrictions may only ride a three wheel configuration. This also holds true for our class "L" endorsement (any motorcycle under 150cc). The additional endorsement restrictions also stand for the outrigger style kits that may be installed on standard motorcycles, one front wheel and 3 rear wheels.

J11 Indicates the driver took the road test on a three-wheel motorcycle (Class M) or three-wheel motor-driven cycle (Class L) and is restricted to a three-wheel cycle of the proper class.
J17 Authorizes a person holding a Class L or M license to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle with rear wheel extensions while maintaining a single front wheel.
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?
No, all three wheel trikes are classified in the same category.
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?
Classified as an autocycle, see #1 above. No special licensing required, but does require autocycle plates.

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ILLINOIS

Sorry need to make a correction to #1, No 3W are not classified separately from motorcycles, they require a motorcycle license with a restriction to operate.

Illinois definition of an autocycle was pasted into #1. For clarification as to the differences between an autocycle and a 3 wheel motorcycle. On 3W motorcycles the rider sits astride or straddles the motor and operates the forward controls using a handlebar.

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MISSOURI

Hi John

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?

No, they are classified as motorcycles

2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?

No however, if an individual tests on a three wheel vehicle they receive a motorcycle endorsement with a three wheel restriction.

3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?

Wheel arrangement does not matter. Sidecars, traditional trikes and Spyders are all motorcycles.

4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?

The Slingshot is classified as an Autocycle. Operators are not required to have an endorsement. Helmets are an interesting situation. Operators are

not required to wear a helmet if "the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds the standards established for protective headgear."

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NORTH CAROLINA

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles? No, they are considered motorcycles.
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles? If a person takes the 3WBRC or takes the test at the DMV on a 3 Wheeled Motorcycle, they will receive an "M" endorsement with a 3 wheel only restriction. Those that test on a two wheeled motorcycle can ride either 2 or 3 wheeled MCs.
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration? No, they are considered 3 Wheeled Motorcycles.
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot? It is considered an Autocycle. These can be driven with a class "C" license and there is no requirement for a helmet. They are issued a motorcycle license plate.

Thanks,

Bob

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NEVADA

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?
"Trimobile" means every motor vehicle designed to travel with three wheels in contact with the ground, at least one of which is power driven. The term does not include a motorcycle with a sidecar.
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?
No. Only required to have a regular driver license
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?
Because the statute says "at least one of which is power driven" the Spyder is classified as a tri-mobile

4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?

The Slingshot is also a tri-mobile. Nevada has not passed an "auto-cycle" law.

Pete Vander Aa | Program Administrator

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MICHIGAN

Hi John,

Here in Michigan are the following, below:

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles? Yes and no. No, because they are still referred to as a "motorcycle" per Michigan Vehicle Code and in our crash data. Yes, because a person can seek and receive just a 3W cycle endorsement on their drivers license. They are plated just like a two wheel motorcycle, unless it is deemed an "auto cycle" per the vehicle code.
2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles? Yes. A person can get just a 3W endorsement and would be restricted to 3W only. A person who has a 2W endorsement is good for 3W as well.
3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration? No, not in Michigan. They are lumped in with 3W.
4. How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot? Under recent legislation, our vehicle code now classifies this as an "autocycle".

257.25a

"Autocycle [https://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(2mffjz0bvvdnygx4n3dmooo0\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-257-25a&query=on&highlight=autocycle#2](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(2mffjz0bvvdnygx4n3dmooo0))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-257-25a&query=on&highlight=autocycle#2) " defined. Sec. 25a.

"Autocycle [https://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(2mffjz0bvvdnygx4n3dmooo0\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-257-25a&query=on&highlight=autocycle#top](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(2mffjz0bvvdnygx4n3dmooo0))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-257-25a&query=on&highlight=autocycle#top) " means a motorcycle that is equipped with safety belts, rollbar or roll hoops, steering wheel, and equipment otherwise required on a motorcycle, has not more than 3 wheels in contact with the roadway at any 1 time, and is not equipped with a straddle seat.

History: Add. 1984, Act 328, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 1984 ;-- Am. 2017, Act 94, Eff. Oct. 11, 2017

Hope this helps.

Thanks

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CONNECTICUT

1. Are they classified separately from conventional motorcycles?

NO

2. Do you have a separate license restriction for 3-Wheel Motorcycles?
YOU MAY TAKE A 3-WHEEL TRAINING COURSE AND BECOME ENDORSED IN 3-WHEEL ONLY. TWO WHEEL ENDORSEMENTS ALLOW FOR OPERATION OF THREE WHEEL AS WELL.

3. Are the Can-Am Spyders classified separately from the traditional trike configuration?
NO

4 . How does your state classify the Polaris Slingshot?
THEY ARE CLASSIFIED AS AUTOCYCLES, REGULAR OPERATORS LICENSE TO OPERATE.

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Dear Colleagues,

We just wanted to say thanks to all those who responded to our 3W inquiry. Hope the rest of your summer is surprisingly peaceful.

Ride Safe and Ride Smart,

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