



Department of the
Environment
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Consultation on proposals to introduce legislation to exempt electrically assisted pedal cycles from certain licensing requirements

Date: 16 March 2016

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Foreword

This document sets out proposals to introduce new regulations to exempt certain electrically assisted pedal cycles from certain vehicle and driver licensing requirements. In addition the Department intends to bring forward secondary regulations which will set minimum construction and use standard for these vehicles.

This document sets out the proposed changes, the rationale behind the proposals and invites your, or your organisation's, comments on them.

Executive Summary

Currently, in Northern Ireland, electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPC) are, in legislation, classed as motor vehicles and are required to be registered, licensed and insured to be used on the roads. However, in Britain and Ireland many of these vehicles are exempted from these requirements. We are proposing to introduce new legislation which will align the requirements which apply in NI to those in Britain and Ireland.

The Department is proposing to introduce EAPC Regulations which will set out the class of electrically assisted pedal cycles to be exempted from motor vehicle registration, licensing and insurance requirements.

In addition proposed new EAPC (Construction and Use) Regulations will set out the construction requirements for these cycles and will align these criteria with European Whole Vehicle Type Approval¹ and the European Standard (BS EN Standard 15194:2009)².

It is proposed that the new legislation will bring NI into line with Britain.

¹ Directive 2002/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 March 2002

² BS EN 15194:2009 cycles – electrically power assisted cycles – EPAC bicycles

The proposal

The proposed new Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Regulations will set out the requirements that this type of vehicle must meet for use on the roads in NI without having to be registered, taxed or tested as a motor vehicle.

General Requirements

The cycle must be fitted with pedals which are capable of propelling it.

The continuous rated power of the electric motor must not exceed 250watts.

The electric assistance must cut off when the vehicle reached 15.5mph.

It is proposed that an electrically assisted cycle which complies with the above will not be considered to be a motor vehicle within the meaning of the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995. This will mean that it these vehicles will not be required to be registered or subject to vehicle excise duty (road tax) and will not need to be insured as a motor vehicle. However, in accordance with the section 46 of the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1995 this type of vehicle can only be ridden by someone who is over 14 years of age.

Construction Requirements

The Department also intends to bring forward new legislation which will set out the construction, plating and braking requirements which must be met before an electrically assisted pedal cycle can be used on the roads.

Construction /Plating requirements:

- The cycle must be fitted with a plate showing;
- Name of the manufacturer,
- Nominal voltage of the battery,
- Continuous rated output of the motor.

Or, permanently marked with:

- Name of the manufacturer,
- the maximum speed of the motor in miles per hour or kilometres per hour,
- the maximum continuous rated power of the vehicle in watts or kilowatts.

Braking requirements

The EAPC must be fitted with a braking system which:

- conforms to EU type approval standards.
- complies with the standards specified in paragraph 4.6.8 of the 2014 BS EN Standard.

Lights and reflectors

If an electrically assisted pedal cycle is to be used at night (between sunrise and sunset) it will need to be fitted with front and rear lights and a rear reflector.

The **front light** must be white and will be able to be steady or flash.

The **rear light** must be red and will be able to be steady or flash.

Flashing lights must flash at a rate of between 60 and 240 times per minute and have a minimum intensity of 4 candela.

A red reflector will be required to be fitted to the rear of the cycle.

Amber pedal reflectors will need to be fitted to the front and rear edges of each pedal.

How to Respond

The consultation period began on 16 March 2016 and will run until 11 May 2016, please ensure that your response reaches us by that date. If you would like further copies of this consultation document or require an alternative format i.e. audio CD please contact the address below. The consultation document and additional reply form can also be found at

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/>. Click the link to 'Consultations'.

Please send consultation responses to:

EPAC Consultation

Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division

10 – 18 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8GB

Tel: 02890540908

Email: june.gibson@doeni.gov.uk

When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

Information provided on response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information rules (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act, Data protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you would like the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, there is a statutory code of practice which public authorities must follow in dealing with requests information.

The Department will process your information in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in the majority of cases this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

What will happen next?

A summary of responses, including the next steps will be published on our website after the consultation has closed, paper copies will be available on request.

Q3	Do you agree that electric assistance must cut off when the vehicle reaches 15.5mph?	
Yes:	No:	Please provide relevant supporting evidence in box below

Q4	Do you agree with the construction/plating proposals?	
Yes:	No:	Please provide relevant supporting evidence in box below

Q5	Do you agree with the proposed braking requirements?	
Yes:	No:	Please provide relevant supporting evidence in box below

Q6	Do you agree with the proposed lighting requirements?	
Yes:	No:	Please provide relevant supporting evidence in box below