

## Electric Bike Rules and Regulations pursuant to the California Vehicle Code

### Definition of an Electric Bike (E-Bike)

According to Section 231 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), an E-Bike is a bicycle. Section 312.5(a) of the CVC defines an E-Bike as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of **less than 750 watts**. E-Bikes manufactured after 2017 are required to have a **permanently affixed label** that contains the **classification number, top speed, and motor wattage**.

### Class 1

A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed **pedal-assisted** electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of **20 miles per hour**.

### Class 2

A "class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed **throttle-assisted** electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of **20 miles per hour**.

### Class 3

A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed **pedal-assisted** electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of **28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer**.

- The operator must be **16 years of age or older** (Section 21213 CVC).
- The operator must also **wear a helmet**, regardless of age (Section 21213 CVC).
- A passenger must **wear a helmet**, regardless of age (Section 21213[b] CVC).

Be aware that while something may look like an E-Bike, there are many electric vehicles that do not meet the requirements to be classified as an E-Bike. These may not be street legal and can be dangerous for children. Additionally, some may require a driver license to operate. Any E-Bike outside of these legal classifications is considered an "out of class electric vehicle" and is not considered an E-Bike, making it illegal to operate on a public roadway. Unlicensed E-Motorcycle riders are subject to citation and the motorcycle may be subject to impound.

Remember, Sur-Ron style bikes (Sur-Ron, Talaria, Segway, E Ride Pro) are off-highway E-Motorcycles and are classified as FULL MOTORCYCLES under the California Vehicle Code. To ride an electric motorcycle on public roads and make it "street legal," you need:

- A valid driver's license with a Class M1 endorsement
- Registration with the California DMV
- Proper display of a license plate
- Essential safety equipment: brake light, headlight, and turn signals
- Liability insurance
- A DOT-approved helmet

# RIDE READY

## *Ride Predictably*

- Ride in a straight line to minimize weaving in traffic
- Signal before making a turn
- Check behind you before making a turn or changing lanes

## *Embrace the Rules of the Road*

- Obey all traffic signals and signs
- Ride in the rightmost lane or bicycle lane in the same direction as traffic

## *Always Think Ahead*

- Make sure your bike is good to go with an ABC-E Quick Check
- Carry tools and supplies for your ride
- Watch for turning vehicles and car doors
- Brake sooner on an e-bike. You will need to slow down sooner because e-bikes have more power, speed, and weight than conventional bicycles

## *Do Be Seen and Be Safe*

- Ride where people can see you
- Wear bright clothing
- Use a front white light, rear red light and reflectors if riding during times of darkness

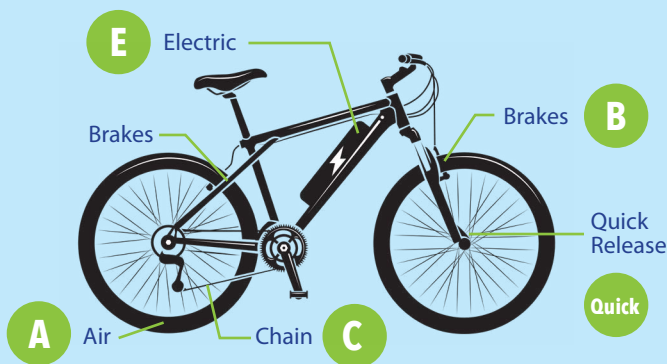
## *You Control Your Safety*

- Always wear a helmet
- Ride at a safe speed that is appropriate for where you are riding
- Think for yourself on group rides. While riding in a group is fun, it is crucial that you rely on your own judgement rather than someone else's

# E-Bike

## SAFE CYCLING TIPS

Bicycle Safety Check is as easy as A.B.C.E. Quick Check



### ABC-E Quick Check

**Air** – check tires for air

**Brakes** – check brakes for wear

**Chain & Cassette** – check for excessive wear/dirt

**Electric** – check battery and electric components

**Quick** – check quick releases

**Check** – check the bike for any potential issues

### Safety Tips when Riding

#### Be Safe:

Wear a helmet

Identify hazards and be ready to react

#### Be Visible:

Dress for safety and be seen

Wear reflective clothing to be seen at night

#### Be Aware:

Think ahead. Pay attention to vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians

Follow rules and road signs. Follow traffic direction of travel

#### Be Predictable:

Ride in a safe and consistent manner

Communicate your intentions with hand and arm signals

For more safety tips, please visit us  
online at [www.chp.ca.gov/Bike-and-Ped-Safety](http://www.chp.ca.gov/Bike-and-Ped-Safety)

Or scan our QR code



# GET MOVING

## WITH AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE



E-bikes are fun to ride and allow you to go farther and faster with less physical effort.

Riding an e-bike instead of using a car can reduce your carbon impact.

E-Bikes allow people of all ages and physical abilities to experience the joy of cycling & exercise.

### Health Benefits of Riding

Improved Cardiovascular Health

Improved Aerobic Capacity

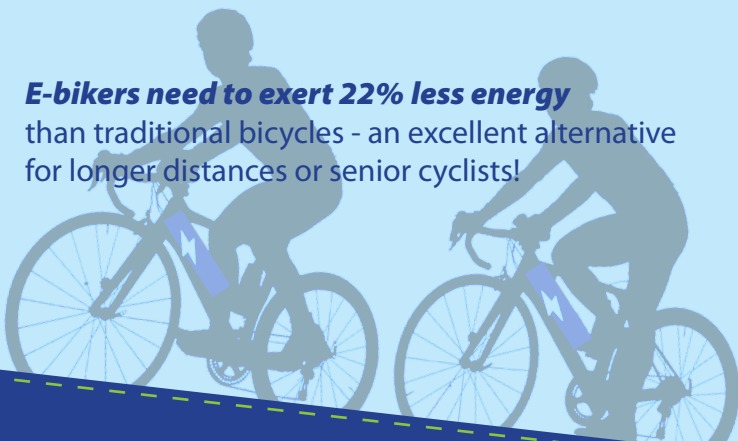
Blood Sugar Control

Burn Calories & Increase Strength

Boost Immunity



***E-bikers need to exert 22% less energy*** than traditional bicycles - an excellent alternative for longer distances or senior cyclists!



For more safety tips, please visit us online at [www.chp.ca.gov/Bike-and-Ped-Safety](http://www.chp.ca.gov/Bike-and-Ped-Safety)



Or scan  
our QR code



# **E-Bike** CLASSIFICATIONS

## CLASS 1

### PEDAL ASSIST

**<20 MPH**

A class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.



## CLASS 2

### THROTTLE ASSIST

**<20 MPH**

A class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

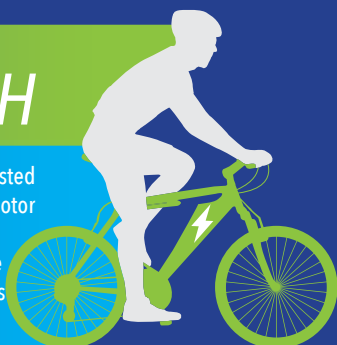


## CLASS 3

### PEDAL ASSIST

**<28 MPH**

A class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.



**Additionally, to operate a Class 3 E-Bike you must:**

- Be 16 years of age or older
- Wear a helmet, regardless of age

No driver's license is required. Per California Vehicle Code Section 21212, **riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet, regardless of bicycle type.**

Any purchased or modified E-Bike that can travel at speeds above 28 miles per hour is no longer considered an E-Bike, and is considered an "out of class electric vehicle" which is illegal to operate on public roadways.

Tampering with or modifying your E-bike battery or speed settings could result in an illegal modification leading to potential injury or death.