

Helmet Law

Since January 1994, in an effort to reduce head injuries and fatalities, California State law has required bicycle helmets for bicycle riders under 18 years old. This law has been expanded to include **scooter, skateboards, and skates**. CVC 21212. (a)

Beginning January 1, 2003, in addition to bicycles, anyone under the age of 18 years old is now required to wear a bicycle helmet when riding a scooter, skateboard, or skates. This is not to be confused with the helmet law for **motorized scooters**. Anyone, regardless of age, is required to wear a bicycle helmet when riding a motorized scooter. CVC 21235 (c)

Motorized Scooters

Motorized Scooters are exempt from licensing, registration, and insurance regulations. Motorized Scooters are required to obey the rules of the road, (i.e. stop signs, signals, driving on the right side of the road, etc.)

The operator of a motorized scooter **shall not** do any of the following:
California Vehicle Code 21235.

- (a) Operate a motorized scooter unless it is equipped with a brake.
- (b) Operate a motorized scooter on a highway with speed limit in excess of 25 MPH.
- (c) Operate a motorized scooter without properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.
- (d) Operate a motorized scooter when the operator is under the age of **16** years.
- (e) Operate a motorized scooter with any passenger.
- (f) Operate a motorized scooter carrying any package.
- (g) Operate a motorized scooter upon a sidewalk, except as may be necessary to enter or leave adjacent property.
- (h) Operate a motorized scooter on the highway with the handlebars raised so that the operator must elevate his or her shoulder in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.
- (i) Leave a motorized scooter on any sidewalk, or park a motorized scooter on a sidewalk, so that there is not an adequate path for pedestrian traffic.
- (j) Attach a motorized scooter or himself / herself while on the roadway, by any means, to another vehicle on the roadway.