

**Motorcycle Safety Program – Maryland Motorcycle Law**

The following are summaries of the referenced sections of Maryland Vehicle Law.

1. A motorcyclist may not ride (be the operator of, a.k.a. the rider, or be a passenger on) a motorcycle unless they are wearing a helmet that is certified by the manufacturer to meet the standards of the Department Of Transportation (DOT). **TR-21-1306(b)**
2. A motorcyclist may not ride a motorcycle unless they are wearing eye protection that meet the specifications established by the Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations on impact resistance or the motorcycle is equipped with a windscreen. It is generally accepted that to qualify as eye protection, the top of a motorcycle's windscreen should be higher than the rider's eyes. A passenger on a motorcycle must wear eye protection at all times. **TR-21-1306(c)(1) & (2)**
3. A motorcyclist may not ride a motorcycle with handlebars that are more than 15 inches in height above the part of the seat occupied by the rider. **TR 21-1305(b)**
4. The rider of a motorcycle may ride the motorcycle only on the permanent and regular seat attached to it. **TR 21-1302(a)**
5. A person may ride on a motorcycle only if seated facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle. **TR 21-1302(d)**
6. Motorcycles are entitled to have full use of a lane and the driver of another motor vehicle may not drive their vehicle in any manner that deprives a motorcyclist of full use of a lane. **TR 21-1303(b)**
7. A motorcyclist may not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being passed. This includes another motorcycle. Does not apply to police officers in performance of their official duties. **TR 21-1303(c)**
8. A motorcyclist may not ride between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles. This practice is commonly called "lane splitting". Does not apply to police officers in performance of their official duties. **TR 21-1303(d)**
9. Motorcycles may not be ridden more than two abreast in a single lane. **TR 21-1301(e)**
10. If any motorcycle carries a passenger other than in a sidecar the motorcycle must be designed to carry more than one person. It must have another seat firmly attached to the motorcycle behind the seat occupied by the rider and must be equipped with footrests for the passenger. **TR 21-1302(c) & 1305(a)**
11. A motorcyclist may not carry another person in a position that interferes with the operation, control of the motorcycle or view of the rider. **TR 21-1302(f)**
12. A motorcyclist may not ride a motorcycle while carrying a package, bundle or any other article that prevents them from keeping both hands on the handlebars. **TR 21-1302(e)**

## **Maryland Motorcycle Laws Part Two**

### **13. Display of registration (license) plates.**

On a motorcycle the "license" plate shall be securely fastened to the rear of the vehicle, in a horizontal position and in a place where it is clearly visible. Plate covers that obscure the characters or the stickers may not be used. **13-411.(c).**

### **14. Unauthorized use of registration (license) plates.**

On a motorcycle, the license plate issued by the MVA must be displayed. In general, this means it cannot be altered, i.e. cut down to a smaller size, or copied reducing it to a smaller size. **13-703.(g).**

### **15. Wearing earphones, headsets, etc. prohibited**

A person may not (operate a motorcycle) on any highway or on private property that is used by the public while the person is wearing over, or in both ears earplugs, earphones, headsets, and any other audio device.

This does not apply to a person wearing earplugs that are designed to reduce injurious noise levels, but will not inhibit the wearer's ability to hear a siren, or horn from an emergency or other vehicle.

Motorcycle helmet speakers that are mounted to the inside of a rider's helmet that do not cover, or go in a riders ears and do not inhibit a riders ability to hear other sounds are generally permitted. **21-1120.**

### **16. Motorcycle Illumination**

Motorcycles may be equipped with auxiliary illumination to make the motorcycle more conspicuous and help protect the operator. Lighting may include:

1. Standard bulb running lights; or
2. Light-emitting diode pods and strips;
3. Blue dot illumination;
  - a. Not to exceed 3/4 of an inch in diameter; and
  - b. May be located only on the rear as part of, or adjacent to the brake light.

Lighting shall be:

1. Non-blinking;
2. Non-flashing;
3. Non-oscillating; and
4. Directed toward the engine and drive train.

Lighting may not:

1. Be attached to the wheels; or
2. Emit a red or blue light.

**22-221.(l).**

### **17. Mufflers; prevention of noise.**

Every (motorcycle) with an internal combustion engine shall be equipped with an exhaust muffler system in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person may use a muffler cutout, bypass, or (straight pipes) on a motorcycle on a highway.

It is also against Federal Law (EPA) to modify the emission control system of any motor vehicle, which includes the exhaust system. **22-402.**



## **Maryland Alcohol Related Penalties**

Driving under the influence refers to an alcohol and/or drug induced condition that makes a person mentally and/or physically less able to exercise clear judgement. This affects the safety of the driver when operating a motor vehicle, as well as others. *TR 21-902*

### **Implied Consent:**

When you sign for a driver's license it is implied that any person detained on suspicion of operating a motor vehicle in this State while under the influence of alcohol and/or any drugs, consents to a test. Persons refusing the test or who submit to the test and measure a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or more are subject to suspension of their Maryland driver's license. *TR 16-205.1*

### **Penalties for refusing to submit to the test:**

1st offense - Driver's license/privilege suspended for 120 days  
2nd/subsequent offense - Driver's license/privilege suspended for 1 year

### **MVA Penalties for (BAC) test results of .08 or above:**

First offense - Driver's license suspended for 45 days  
Second/subsequent offense - Driver's license suspended for 90 days

### **Violation of license restriction:**

In addition to the suspension period above, if your driver's license has an alcohol restriction, the Motor Vehicle Administration may suspend or revoke your license.

### **Judicial penalties for conviction of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) (BAC .08 or above)**

1st offense - Not more than \$1,000 fine and/or 1 year in jail  
1st offense while transporting a minor - Not more than \$2,000 fine and/or 2 years in jail  
2nd offense - Not more than \$2,000 fine and/or 2 years in jail  
2nd offense while transporting a minor - Not more than \$3,000 fine and/or 3 years in jail  
3rd offense - Not more than \$3,000 fine and/or 3 year in jail  
3rd offense while transporting a minor - Not more than \$4,000 fine and/or 4 years in jail

*After the 1st offense an additional mandatory penalty of 80+ hours of community service and 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment is added.*

### **Judicial penalties for conviction of Driving While Impaired (DWI) (BAC .05 - .07)**

1st offense - Not more than \$500 fine and/or 2 months in jail  
1st offense while transporting a minor - Not more than \$1,000 fine and/or 6 months in jail  
2nd offense - Not more than \$500 fine and/or 1 year in jail  
2nd offense while transporting a minor - Not more than \$2,000 fine and/or 1 year in jail

**The Maryland Helmet Law**

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) receives many requests every year to provide a list of approved motorcycle helmets for use when riding. The motorcycle helmet law, which is in Section TR 21-1306 (d) of The Maryland Vehicle Law, states:

***(d) Approval of protective devices by Administrator - The Administrator:***

- (1) May approve or disapprove protective headgear and eye-protective devices required by this section;***
- (2) may adopt and enforce regulations establishing standards and specifications for the approval of protective headgear and eye-protective devices;***
- (3) shall publish lists of all protective headgear and eye-protective devices that he approves, by name and type.***

The MVA has discretionary authority to approve or disapprove protective headgear. The MVA, through the Code of Maryland Regulations 11.13.05.02(D), has adopted Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218 as the minimum standard for helmets used in Maryland. That regulation reads as follows:

***D. The Administration shall accept all helmets which comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218, Motorcycle Helmets, 49 CFR §571.218 (1991).***

The federal safety standard applies to all helmets sold in the United States for use with a motorcycle. Motorcycle dealerships, related businesses and organizations may not sell a helmet for use with a motorcycle unless it meets the federal standard. Any helmet that complies with the federal standard will have a DOT (Department of Transportation) label, applied by the manufacturer, on the outside back of the helmet. This label allows the consumer to recognize the helmets that meet the federal standard and are accepted by the MVA for use in Maryland. There will also be additional labeling inside that includes the month and year of manufacture, if the helmet meets any other standard, and when that helmet model was last tested against the standard. The MVA would be required to publish a list of approved helmets only if it elected to conduct testing to approve helmets that were not in compliance with the federal safety standard.

The Maryland Court of Appeals agreed that the statute does not require the MVA to publish a list of helmets in an opinion filed February 10, 1998 in the case of Anne S. Ferro v. William Michael Lewis.



## Instructor Hand Signals

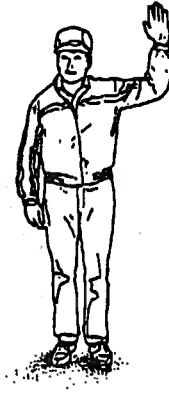
**START ENGINE**



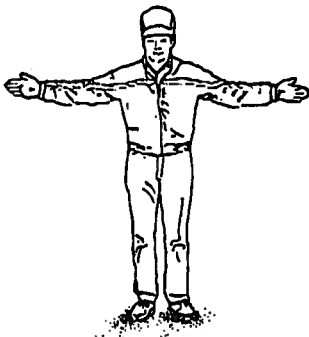
**STOP ENGINE**



**MOTORCYCLE  
IN NEUTRAL**



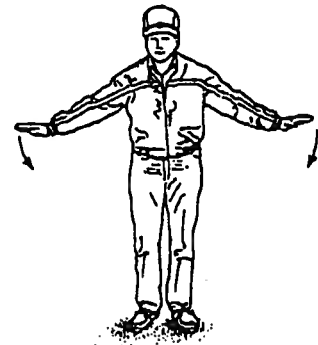
**STOP**



**SPEED UP**



**SLOW DOWN**



**REGROUP**



**WHISTLE - ATTENTION SIGNAL**  
If riding - **STOP** and shut-down  
your motorcycle.

Otherwise - Look toward the  
Instructor for directions.

## **HOT DAYS AND HYPONATREMIA**

With the dog days of summer rolling in, Glenn Frey's hit song "The Heat is On" starts to really hit home. Summer heat and humidity can increase your body's need for liquid. Failing to meet that need can lead to dehydration, which can lead to heat stress and heat stroke, both of which can lead to serious health problems. Now is a good time to think about preventing heat-related ailments by keeping your body properly hydrated.

- Drink liquids before, during and after work or exercise
- Be sensitive to your thirst and prepared to take a sip every 15 to 20 minutes
- Because your body absorbs cool water more quickly, drink it when you have the choice
- Alcohol speeds dehydration, so drink in moderation.

If not taking in enough water can lead to heat stress or heat stroke, does it follow that more water is always better? Or is it possible to take in too much liquid? In other words, can you over-hydrate?

In recent years, a number of deaths have been associated with hyponatremia. The victims appear to have taken advice to drink plenty of fluids a little too seriously. Long distance runners run the highest risk.

Hyponatremia occurs when the concentration of electrolytes in the blood falls to dangerously low levels. The symptoms are similar to those of heat stress: fatigue, weight gain, dizziness, cramping, headaches and confusion, and in severe cases, seizures and coma. Cases have been rare, but what the victims all had in common was over-consumption of water.

Sweating cools your body, but it also depletes electrolytes (sodium and chloride). By consuming too much liquid during heavy work or intense exercise, you can deplete your body's electrolyte levels. With the loss of sodium and chloride, water cannot permeate cell walls and therefore cannot be absorbed. Without adequate water, muscles and organs cannot function properly.

Follow this advice to avoid hyponatremia during periods of intense activity:

- Take your fluid in small amounts.
- Don't overdo the water. Use sports drinks to replace lost electrolytes.
- Keep up your strength with snack foods such as pretzels.
- Drink tomato juice or hot clear chicken broth for their high sodium content.

Hyponatremia is rare. Unless you are engaged in extended periods of intense activity, you should not need to regularly substitute other liquids for water or add additional salt to your diet. Following the basic guidelines for good hydration will help to prevent heat stress and heat stroke, but when "the heat is on," be aware and take extra care.

For more information on this hot topic, go to:

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/)

[www.osha.gov/sltc/heatstress/](http://www.osha.gov/sltc/heatstress/)

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/hotenvt.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hotenvt.html)

[www.acsm.org](http://www.acsm.org)

[www.weatherimages.org/data/heatindex.html](http://www.weatherimages.org/data/heatindex.html)