

## Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

# L38 - Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme 'LAMS'

Effective Date: 1 July 2008

### When did the Northern Territory LAMS commence?

The Northern Territory Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) commenced on 1 July 2008.

### Background

The previous Northern Territory motorcycle licensing structure restricted novice riders to riding motorcycles with an engine capacity that did not exceed 260cc. This restriction did not reflect the true performance capabilities of some of today's motorcycles, as high powered 'race replica' motorcycles fell within that engine capacity restriction. The riding of these high performance motorcycles is regarded as a risk to novice riders.

### Why was a LAMS introduced?

The Northern Territory LAMS allows novice riders to ride and gain experience on 'Learner Approved Motorcycles' that are moderately powered, with an engine capacity of up to and including 660cc, and which do not exceed a power to weight ratio of 150 kilowatts per tonne (see calculation formula on page 2). This means that the novice rider has access to a wider range of motorcycles, some of which may have improved handling and safety features.

### What are the benefits of a LAMS?

The introduction of the LAMS will restrict access to the high risk 'race replica' motorcycles that previously fell within the engine capacity restriction of up to 260cc. These motorcycles have acceleration characteristics which are considered unsuitable for the inexperienced novice rider. All other motorcycles previously available to the novice rider will remain available under the LAMS. An additional selection of moderately powered motorcycles is now available. These Learner Approved Motorcycles will have an engine capacity not exceeding 660cc and a power to weight ratio not exceeding 150 kilowatts per tonne.

The LAMS will also allow novice riders the opportunity to learn on a motorcycle that is more suited to their physical characteristics.

In addition, a LAMS in the Northern Territory will aid movement between the Northern Territory and the majority of Australian jurisdictions that have similar Learner Approved Motorcycle Schemes. A LAMS currently operates in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

Motorcycle interest groups in the Northern Territory have supported the introduction of a LAMS.

## What is a power to weight ratio and how is it calculated?

The power to weight ratio is the measure of the motorcycles performance. Based on the motorcycles standard specifications provided by the manufacturer, the power (kilowatts) is divided by the dry (tare) weight + 90kg (for rider and fuel). The result is then multiplied by 1000 to convert to kilowatts (kw) per tonne.

$$\frac{\text{Engine power (kW)}}{\text{Dry weight + 90kg}} \times 1000 = \text{kilowatt / tonne}$$

The additional 90kg is used in the calculation because it is the figure used in brake tests as defined in Australian Design Rule (ADR) 33, "Brake Systems for Motorcycles and Mopeds".

## How will I know what motorcycles are LAMS approved?

A list of Learner Approved Motorcycles (Information Bulletin L39) is published on the MVR website and is available in hard copy format from MVR. This list will be updated as new motorcycles enter the market and are approved by the Registrar for use by novice riders. The list developed for the implementation of the Northern Territory LAMS was based on the NSW list of approved motorcycles.

Motorcycles that do not appear on the Learner Approved Motorcycle list cannot be legally ridden by novice riders. It is the responsibility of the novice rider to only ride a Learner Approved Motorcycle from the approved list.

There are no exemption provisions available to allow novice riders who have obtained their Learner Licence or first motorcycle licence since 01 July 2008 to ride a motorcycle that is not on the approved list.

## Who is a novice motor cycle rider?

You are a novice motor cycle rider and restricted to riding only LAMS approved motor cycles if you:

- hold a motor cycle Learner Licence - Class R(L);
- hold a Provisional Licence of any class;
- hold an open C Class Driver Licence (or higher class) and hold an R(e) or R(r) Motor Cycle Licence, in which case you are restricted to riding LAMS approved motor cycles only for a period of 12 months commencing from the date your R(e) or R(r) Licence was issued.

**NB** If you currently hold a Provisional Licence of any class AND the provisional period expires during the first 12 months from when your R(e) or R(r) Licence was issued, the 12 month LAMS restriction period commences from the date your R(e) or R(r) Licence was issued.

## As a current novice rider, how will LAMS impact on me?

Existing novice riders as at 01 July 2008 are eligible to ride motorcycles that were approved under the previous Northern Territory motorcycle licensing structure. With the new LAMS, these same riders are able to ride the Learner Approved Motorcycles.

As replacement licences are issued, a new condition code 'r' will be displayed to denote that the rider is restricted to LAMS approved motorcycles only.

A letter has been sent to existing novice riders together with a list of the LAMS approved motorcycles.

For further information regarding the Northern Territory Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme, please contact Motor Vehicle Registry using the details below.

<b>Contact Details</b>	
<b>Motor Vehicle Registry</b>	
Telephone	1300 654 628
Facsimile	(08) 8999 3103
Email	<a href="mailto:mvr@nt.gov.au">mvr@nt.gov.au</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au">www.mvr.nt.gov.au</a>
Postal Address	GPO Box 530 Darwin NT 0801