

Excerpt from MTO website and changes due to Bill 31

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/bill-31.shtml>

Cycling

The safety of all road users is paramount and that includes cyclists. These cycling changes are directed at encouraging cycling, promoting road safety, and sharing the road.

New measures to better protect cyclists include:

Changes directed at drivers:

“Dooring” or a “door prize” commonly refers to someone who opens a parked motor vehicle door into the path of a cyclist or other traffic.

Higher set fine of \$365 (includes victim fine surcharge and court fees) + three (3) demerit points; drivers who choose to contest the charge could be subject to a fine up to \$1,000 + three demerit points, upon conviction.

Drivers must keep a one-metre (3 feet) distance when passing cyclists.

Set fine of \$110 (includes victim fine surcharge and court fees)

Changes directed at cyclists:

- Cyclists must have proper lights, reflective materials and reflectors on their bicycles (and that includes e-bikes) and motor-assisted bicycle (mopeds). HTA s62(17) says:

When on a highway at any time from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavourable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 150 metres or less, every motor-assisted bicycle and bicycle (other than a unicycle) shall carry a lighted lamp displaying a white or amber light on its front and a lighted lamp displaying a red light or a reflector on its rear, and in addition white reflective material shall be placed on its front forks, and red reflective material covering a surface of not less than 250 millimetres in length and 25 millimetres in width shall be placed on its rear.

- Set fine for improper bicycle lighting or improper lighting is \$110 (includes victim fine surcharge and court fees.)

Excerpt - Bicycle Safety – Ministry of Transportation -

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/bicycle-safety.shtml>

Cycling guides

Learn more about safe cycling:

- Cycling Skills: Ontario's Guide to Safe Cycling (PDF - 9 MB) : a detailed handbook of rules and safety standards for any rider
- Young Cyclist's Guide (PDF - 2.83 MB) : a kid-friendly handbook book of cycling safety tips and rules for young riders

What is a bicycle?

A bicycle, or bike, is a vehicle that:

- has one, two or three wheels (a unicycle, bicycle or tricycle)
- has steering handlebars and pedals
- does not have a motor. For motor-assisted bikes, read about electric bicycles or scooters and mopeds

Licence and registration

Bicycles **do not** require:

- registration
- licence plates
- vehicle insurance
- a driver's licence

People of all ages can ride a bike.

Rules of the road

As a cyclist, you must share the road with others (e.g., cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, etc.).

Under Ontario's Highway Traffic Act (HTA), a bicycle is a vehicle, just like a car or truck.

Cyclists:

- must obey all traffic laws
- have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers
- cannot carry passengers - if your bicycle is only meant for one person

Riding on the right

You must stay as close to the right edge of the road whenever possible, especially if you're slower than other traffic.

Where you can ride

You can ride on most roads, except:

- controlled access highways, such as Ontario's 400-series highways
- across a road within a pedestrian cross-over - you must walk your bike to the other side

Bike helmets

Children and youth

By law, every cyclist under age 18 must wear an approved helmet.

Riders under 16 years old: a parent or guardian must make sure their child wears a helmet.

Adults

Helmets are not compulsory for adults over 18; but a helmet can greatly reduce the risk of permanent injury or death if you fall or collide. It is strongly recommended that all riders wear helmets.

Types of helmets

The best helmets:

- are made to meet strict safety standards
- fit properly when worn correctly

Bicycle safety resources

For more information about cycling safety, check out:

- CAN-BIKE, a series of education and skill courses on cycling safely
- Canada's Independent Bicycle Retailers Association
- the Toronto Cycling Committee: a citizen's advisory group on bike-related policies
- the Share the Road Cycling Coalition: an organization that works to make communities more bicycle-friendly
- CAA Bike Safety: safety tips for cyclists and drivers
- ServiceOntario Publications: order copies of Cycling Skills and the Young Cyclist's Guide