



Horsham
District
Council

HIGHWAY CODE

for Mobility Scooter Users



STOP

A large, white, oval-shaped sign with a thick red border and the word "STOP" in bold black capital letters.

**GIVE
WAY**

A large, white, triangular sign with a thick red border and the words "GIVE WAY" in bold black capital letters.

**DROPPED
KERB**

A blue trapezoidal sign with white text, indicating a dropped kerb.

4

A circular sign with a white background, a red border, and the number "4" in bold black capital letters.

SLOW

A circular sign with a white background, a red border, and the word "SLOW" in bold black capital letters.

Guidelines for Safer Use

Introduction

This Highway Code has been written to protect the safety of people who use electric mobility scooters and the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

A mobility scooter could cause considerable damage to the user or other people if it collided with someone or something

If you use a mobility scooter, you must be responsible for your own and other people's safety and follow this Highway Code, whether you ride on the pavement or on the road and whilst travelling in and around the shops.



Definitions

Three types of 'invalid carriages are defined in 'The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulation 1988'.

Class 1 - manual wheelchairs. These wheelchairs are not electrically powered. Your arms are used to move the wheelchair forward, or you are pushed by another person.

Class 2 - powered wheelchairs and scooters. These are only suitable for riding on pavements or in and around shops. They have a maximum speed of 4 miles per hour.

Class 3 - powered wheelchairs and outdoor powered vehicles, including scooters. These are suitable for riding on roads, and have a maximum speed of 8 miles per hour. There is also a switch that enables them to travel at 4 miles per hour on pavements and in and around shops.

A class 3 vehicle is not legally defined as a motor vehicle and the user does not have to have a driving licence or take a driving test.

There are some restrictions to using a Class 3 vehicles: They can only be used by a disabled person aged 14 or over, or by an able bodied person who is demonstrating a vehicle before selling it, training a disabled user or taking a vehicle to or from a place for maintenance or repair

Guidelines for Safer Use

Basic Advice

1. Make sure that you get a scooter that is appropriate for your needs.
2. Get professional advice or an assessment before buying a mobility scooter.
3. Make sure you know what all the switches and levers on your scooter do and that you can control it properly before you commence using it.
4. Make sure that the scooter is properly maintained.
5. Make sure that the battery is fully charged and get to know how far your scooter will go before it needs recharging. Remember that the distance you can travel will depend on the condition of the battery, the weight you have on the scooter and the kind of route that you follow. Cold weather, rough surfaces and travelling up hills will use more power and reduce the distance that you will be able to travel.



Insurance

Although you are not required by law to be insured, you are recommended to obtain at least third-party insurance cover, including cover for fire, theft and damage.



Your journey

It is always best to plan your journey, as the most direct or shortest route may not always be the best route to take. Steep hills, high kerbs or other obstructions may make it impossible to tackle certain routes.

Guidelines for Safer Use

You may take a Class 1 wheelchair on some buses and trains, but always check that this service is available for both your outward and return journeys before setting off.

Out and About

Alcohol/Prescribed Medicine

Do not use your mobility scooter if you have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs. Check the patient information on any medication your doctor prescribes or which you buy over the counter. Some medication information states that it could cause drowsiness or not to ride/drive, in which case do not use the scooter.

Be seen

If you are using a cover to protect you from inclement weather, make sure that it does not restrict your vision. Wear fluorescent material or have fluorescent marking on your scooter. Putting your lights on will help others to see you.

Clothing

Do not wear loose - fitting clothes. Make sure any belts or scarves are tucked away so that they cannot get caught up in the wheels.

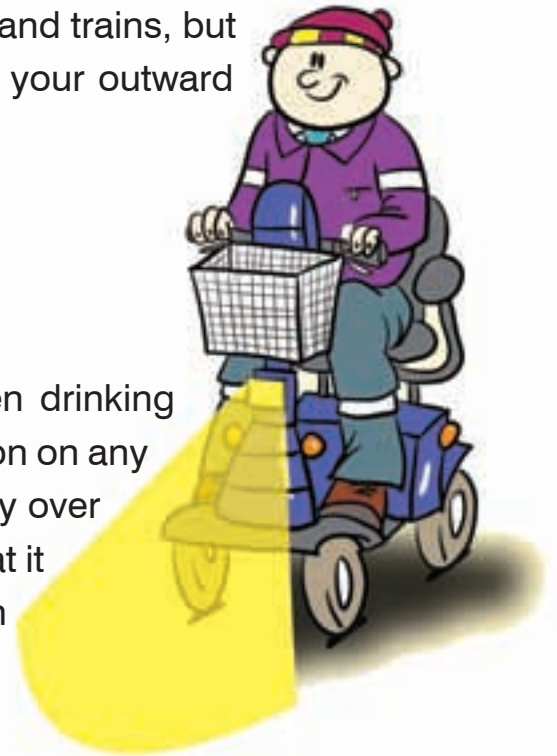


Passengers

Do not carry another person with you on the scooter.

Do not carry or lead a pet while you are on your scooter. Animals, however well trained, can be unpredictable and can cause crashes.

Do not overload your scooter with shopping or other goods as this can make the scooter unstable. Do not have anything hanging from the handlebars as this will make it more difficult to control the scooter.



Guidelines for Safer Use

On the Move

Be careful when going up or down kerbs. Approach at right angles and do not go up or down kerbs higher than that recommended for the type and size of your wheels. Wherever possible, cross roads where there are dropped kerbs.

Take extra care when you cannot see clearly, e.g. when you are approaching a corner where there is a wall or hedge restricting your view.

Take care when going around a corner. Your scooter could topple over if you approach the corner too fast, especially if the ground is sloping.

Be careful when approaching junctions or corners on loose gravel, on a slippery surface or downhill. Always slow down in plenty of time.

Always be aware of pedestrians and road users. Pedestrians may not see or hear you approaching, especially from behind. Look carefully before you move off or change direction.

On the Pavement

Some scooters are designed only to be driven safely on pavements. If you are using a Class 3 vehicle you must switch it to 4 miles per hour, when using it on the pavement or in and around the shops.

Pedestrians have the right of way.

You must give way to pedestrians if you are riding on the pavement. The top speed allowed on pavements is 4 miles per hour but even this is too fast where there are pedestrians about.



Guidelines for Safer Use

Be prepared to come to a complete stop, especially when riding on the pavement and young or vulnerable people are present.

In a crowded area, such as a shopping precinct, extra care must be taken. You must make sure that you do not run into anyone or cause any damage with your scooter. There have been serious injuries and fatalities over the past years where users have not taken care.



On the road

To drive on the road you need a vehicle that can travel at 8 miles per hour. It must also have headlights, rear lights, flashing indicators and a horn.

Remember that you are not driving a car but a very slow small vehicle, which is vulnerable. It is best to avoid using busy roads.

When on the road you are governed by the same rules as other traffic.

You must keep to the left, obey traffic lights and other road signals, including stop signs and give-way signs.

You must give way to pedestrians on crossings

At night, you must have your headlights and rear lights on

If using a dual carriageway you must have an extra flashing amber light fitted and switched on.

You cannot use your scooter on motorways.

Guidelines for Safer Use

You are not allowed to use bus lanes or cycle tracks.

You must use your indicators before pulling out or turning left or right.

When passing parked cars look out for doors opening.

It is recommended to have a sign on the front and back of the scooter saying "slow moving vehicle".



Remember that other vehicles are moving faster than you and may reach you before you expect them, so be sure that you allow plenty of time to indicate and carry out your manoeuvres.

Do not rely on your mirror. It may give a false impression of distance.

When turning right it may be safer to turn onto the pavement and use a pedestrian crossing to cross the road. If there is no pavement, it may be safer to stop on the left and wait for a safe gap in the traffic.

Use your hazard lights if you cannot move for any reason, or if you are in a difficult or dangerous situation. Do not drive with them on unnecessarily.

Do not park your scooter where it would cause an obstruction and make it difficult for others to use the pavement.

Horsham Shopmobility

Mobility scooter and manual wheelchair hire facility in Horsham town centre for anyone with mobility difficulties, permanent or temporary.

For more information, please telephone 01403 249015.

Wheelchair/Scooter User Safety Training

The Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre offers basic vehicle safety training and familiarisation and confidence training in your home area.

For more information, please contact the Mobility Centre on 020 8770 1151.

Community Transport in the Horsham District

To receive a copy of the District Council's guide to community transport in the Horsham District, please contact 01403 215137.

Public Transport Services

For information about public transport services, please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608 or visit www.traveline.co.uk

Your Views Wanted

Do you have any views about Horsham Shopmobility or this leaflet?

If so, please contact Horsham District Council;

Horsham Shopmobility, Horsham District Council,
Park North, North Street,
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL

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Email: contact@horsham.gov.uk

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