

European Motorcycle Riding Legal Requirements

(please note this is my best endeavours to collate information from open research - you must carry out your own independent advice if unsure)

Motorcycle clothing legal requirement summary throughout Europe:

Helmet: ECE 22 safety certified (open or closed)

Body: long sleeved jacket

Legs: long trousers

Hands: full gloves (not fingerless)

Feet: ankle boots

Carrying: A hi-vis vest

KEY
LAW (MUST do)
Advised to
No Advice
Advised against
ILLEGAL (must NOT do)

MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	UK	Belgium	Croatia	Denmark	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
A BS, EEA or EU Safety Certified Motorcycle Helmet															
4x Reflective stickers (front, back, both sides)					Note 2										
Motorcycle Visor	Note 1														
Motorcycle Goggles	Note 1														
Safety Certified Eyewear (glasses/ sunglasses)															
Standard' eyewear (glasses/ sunglasses)															
A spare pair of eyewear / contact lenses															
Safety Certified motorcycle gloves															
Gloves															
Hi-Vis vest worn on body								AT NIGHT							
Hi-Vis vest carried (for both rider and pillion)															
Hi-Vis Vest worn when broken down															
Safety Certified motorcycle jacket/ outer torso layer															
Long sleeved jacket or other															
short sleeved, sleeveless top															
Safety Certified trousers/ outer leg layer															
Heavy duty trousers (pants in US) or other															
long legged trousers (pants in US), not exposing legs															
Shorts															
Safety Certified footwear															
Boots or ankle boots that protect the ankles															
Full coverage shoes															
open toed sandals															

Notes

Note 1: If worn, must be Certified BSI or ECE 22:05/06**Note 2:** FR law states that all Helmets must have reflective marking on front, back and both sides. This law does not refer to foreigners retro-fitting stickers to previously purchased helmets.

Please see my article on Motorcycle Helmets in "Guides".

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Motorcycle equipment legal requirement summary throughout Europe:

- 1 Country Identifier displayed ("UK", not GB)
- 2 Headlamp converter
- 3 Small aid kit

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MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	UK	Belgium	Croatia	Demnark	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
"Country identifier" displayed (UK, not GB)															
Headlamp conversion															
First Aid kit with "suitable wound dressings"															
Small warning light															
Warning triangle															
2x Alcohol Breathalysers					Note 3										

Notes

Note 3: From 2020, it is no longer a legal requirement in France to carry 2x Breathalysers, it remains recommended

Motorcyce driving laws summary throughout Europe:

There a no uniform pan-European driving laws, however please note

Don't speed

Filter in traffic carefully, with caution and courtesy

More countries than expected have banned Radar Detectors

MOTORCYCLE DRIVING LAWS	UK	Belgium	Croatia	Demnark	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
Lane splitting/ filtering in traffic													Note 5		
<+20kph static traffic										Note 4					
<+20kph moving traffic up to 70kph										Note 4					
Only if traffic is stationary															
Indicate before switching lanes on a motorway															
Speed Camera / Radar Detectors							Note 6			Note 6		Note 6	Note 6		Note 6
GPS Speed Camera Postion Alert							Note 6			Note 6		Note 6	Note 6		Note 6

Notes

Note 4: Lane splitting is permitted between the leftmost lane and the one beside it

Note 5: Whilst filtering through traffic is prohibited, it is tacitly permitted. NOT on the Hard Shoulder, for which you will be fined

Note 6: More countries than expected have banned Radar Detectors. Active Radar Detectors are detectable by Police which will invoke a reaction.

Passive detectors (GPS locations of cameras etc) aren't detectable, but if pulled over by Police they may require you to demonstrate that Speed Camera locations are turned OFF on your GPS/ SatNav