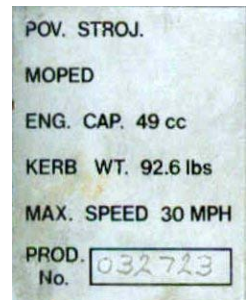


Moped MoT test requirements

or what you can do without

The following information is my interpretation of some of the requirements for a moped to pass the U.K. Ministry of Transport annual vehicle roadworthiness test. This is based on my reading of the MoT test manual and conversations with the mechanic who always tests my own bikes and mopeds, with particular reference to modified mopeds like my 'trail' moped.

General A moped is defined as a motorcycle with an engine no greater than 50cc and with a design speed of less than 50 kph (about 31 mph) and able to be propelled by pedals if first used before 1 September 1977. In addition, before the 1-9-77 date there was no restriction on maximum speed as long as they were less than 50cc and had pedals. They sometimes carry a plate (shown →) certifying that they comply with the requirements to make them mopeds, some of mine do not and it has never caused a problem. These are probably fitted for the purposes of first registration so that the body type on the V5 will be recorded as 'Moped'. Any 50cc machine not covered by the above is classed as an ultra lightweight motorcycle.



Front & Rear Lights Any motorcycle first used after 1-Jan-1931 must have a headlamp but does not need a front position lamp (sidelight). 50cc lightweight motorcycles first used before 1-Jan-1972 and mopeds of any age, only need a dipped beam (but may also have a main beam). There are hugely complicated rules for beam pattern and aim which will be checked in the test. In all cases motorcycles and mopeds must have a red rear position lamp. See daytime MoT section below for an exception to this.

Stop Light A stop light is required on motorcycles and mopeds except where it cannot exceed 25mph, or if it was first used before 1-Jan-1936 or if it is a 50cc first used before 1-April-1986. In other words, mopeds only need a stop light if first used after 1-April-1986. In addition, after 1-Apr-1986 the stop light must be operated by both brake controls, before this date it can be operated by only one (either) brake control.

Rear Reflector All motorcycles and mopeds must have a reflector. This must be red, facing squarely to the rear, be un-obscured and be on the centre line of the bike.

Indicators Indicators are not required on a moped (that cannot exceed 30mph) of any age, or on any motorcycle if it was first used before 1-August-1986, or on any 'off-road', single seat, motorcycle.

Daytime Only MoT You can get a 'Daytime Only' MoT for any motorcycle or moped. The bike must not have front and rear position lights, or any such lights that are fitted are permanently disconnected, painted over or masked. In this case the machine will not need headlamp, rear light, stop light, reflector or indicators. The machine is only to be used in daylight hours and not used at times of seriously reduced visibility. You will be issued with an Advisory Notice with the MoT certificate recording the above.

Horn A horn is required on all motorcycles and mopeds. A motor bicycle first used before 1-August-1973 may have a bulb horn, anything later has to give a continuous tone. On our mopeds that means the engine has to be running for the horn to sound, since our horns are AC operated & will not work from a battery. My MOT man, Andrew, says that a children's, push bike, handle bar mounted type buzzer will meet the requirements, but I have heard of other testers that say these are not acceptable.

Other Your moped must comply with all the safety and structural tests required on steering, suspension, brakes, wheels, exhaust and fuel systems etc. Mudguards and chain guards are not specifically tested, but a tester may fail a moped if he considers the guards, or lack of them, make the moped dangerous. Tyres must have 'visible tread pattern' only. There is no minimum tread depth for mopeds. A speedometer is not required for an MoT test. A registration plate is only required on the rear and must meet the requirements applicable on the date of first registration. The tester is not required to measure the plate but only reject it if clearly incorrect or likely to be misread.

Warning Passing an MoT and having a road legal bike are not necessarily the same thing. This information only applies to the U.K., other countrys' requirements will be different. Do not take this as gospel; check with your own tester; the rules are open to different interpretations by testers. You can get a pdf copy of the full manual from VOSA at:- <http://tinyurl.com/motTestManual> If in doubt seek professional advise.