

Attention Traffic and Training Sergeants:

Recently we have had some enquiries from officers in the field and members of the public regard e-bikes and some confusion over the definition of a Power Assisted Bicycle (e-bike)

According to Ontario Regulation 473/06 an e-bike that meets the definition is deemed not to be a motor vehicle, under the Highway Traffic Act, and is essentially treated as a bicycle. Any person 16 years and over who wears a bicycle helmet as required by subsection 104 (2.1) of the HTA may ride a power assisted bicycle on the highway. There is no requirement for drivers licence, permit or insurance.

The main requirements of a "power assisted bicycle" is that it "is capable of being propelled by muscular power" and a "bears a label that is permanently affixed by the manufacturer stating that the vehicle is a power assisted bicycle". Obviously while the e-bike is being operated on the road, the pedals must be attached and functional.

O. Reg 473 refers to federal Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations for a definition.

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