

## Roadworthiness Check

Before you start your journey you should ensure that your machine is roadworthy. Carry out the following checks:

- visual examination of the machine for damage, defects or leaks
- tools present and in good order (if appropriate)
- check additional safety equipment (beacons, high viz graphics etc) ensuring all are in good and working order
- check panniers and top-boxes are secure and locked
- wheels in good order and secure; spokes, if fitted, secure
- tyres - check both tyres for:
  - damage
  - tread depth and condition
  - valve condition
  - pressure (pressure settings are only accurate when tyres are cold; take into account whether you will be riding solo or not)
  - compatibility of type
- adequate fuel, oil, water and other fluids
- luggage and panniers secure and well balanced
- lights – including high intensity foglight, day running lights, indicators and brakelight – in working order
- steering head moves freely from lock to lock
- horn working correctly
- foot rests in good order
- all glass clean – lenses, mirrors and windshield
- visor clean and scratch free, treated with anti-mist spray if appropriate
- helmet undamaged and well-fitting
- drive chain in good condition and properly adjusted
- suspension settings suitably adjusted (take into account whether you will be riding solo or not)

A useful aid to remember the key points to check is:

### P.O.W.E.R

PETROL, OIL, WATER, ELECTRICS, RUBBER (Tyres)

## motorcycles in business

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## Pre-Riding Check

Carry out this check every time you ride a motorcycle. Make sure you are familiar with the position and operation of the controls and instruments before setting off:

- remove machine from stand and ensure that stand is fully retracted
- check that the gear is in neutral
- identify additional riding aids (ABS, traction control, linked brakes)
- check and adjust position of controls where possible
- check brakes for operation
- number and position of gears.

Turn on the fuel if necessary

Set the manual choke if necessary

Switch on the ignition

Note the warning lights

Start the engine.

Continue with these checks while seated on the machine:

- after engine starts recheck the instruments
- adjust mirrors to give best view
- make sure all the auxiliaries are working
- check gauges and warning lights
- check in mirror, select gear, check all round and move off when safe

As soon as possible after moving off, carry out a moving brake test (see below).  
Check the gauges and warning lights at intervals during the journey; take action if necessary.

## Moving Brake Test

Make sure that the brakes are working efficiently under running conditions. Choose a flat, level road with good surface conditions and no other traffic. Bring the speed up and apply both brakes. Adjust your braking effort to the existing surface conditions. Until you have done this test keep your speeds low and brake early for any hazards.

If you are on the same machine all day you only need to do this test once, provided you have no reason to suspect the performance of the brakes. Always consider the safety and convenience of other road users before you do a moving test.

## General

Always ride with consideration for other road users, within legal speed limits and at speeds which are appropriate to road and weather conditions.

If the motorcycle which you are riding is new to you, take time to get used to its characteristics.

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