



Motorcycle Pillion Questions

What must your motorcycle have to make it legal to carry a passenger?

- The bike must have foot rests and a suitable seat for the passenger. (Seat & Feet)

What information would you give to a new pillion passenger?

- To wear a legal motorcycle helmet which must be correctly fastened at all times. Appropriate motorcycle attire/clothing is also recommended.
- To only get on or off the motorcycle when instructed to do so by the rider.
- To straddle the bike facing forwards (No side saddle).
- Keep your feet on the pillion footrests at all times even if I put my feet down
- Sit still and do not fidget
- To firmly hold onto the grab rails or around the rider's body.
- To follow the rider's lead and lean with the bike when cornering
- To not distract the rider, look around behind them or make any signals at any time.

(n.b. This question may be phrased slightly differently to say “What information would you give a pillion passenger to assist with balance?”, in which case it would be the same answers as above, with the exception the first point – what to wear)

How will carrying a pillion passenger affect the general riding/handling of your motorcycle? (ABBS – Acceleration, Braking, Balance & Steering)

- Slower Acceleration – because of the extra weight
- Increased/Longer Braking Distance – because of the extra weight
- **Balance – Carrying a Pillion passenger will affect your general balance, especially at slow speeds.**
- The passenger will push against the rider during braking, especially when braking strongly and this could affect the rider's stability
- Lighter Steering – the extra weight at the back of the bike cause the front of the bike to raise, resulting in less pressure being applied to the front wheel, which in turn makes the steering lighter. As such, the rider will be less stable whilst riding at slow speeds.
- Bike will lean into corners quicker – because of the extra weight.

What would you consider adjusting on your motorcycle if you were going to carry a pillion?

- Tyre Pressure – you may need to adjust the tyre pressure according to the manufacturer's handbook to compensate for the extra weight.
- Suspension – the preload setting of the rear shock may need to be adjusted (increased)
- The headlight – will point higher as the additional weight on the back of the bike will cause the front to raise.

- The mirrors – will change position as additional weight on the back of the bike will cause the front to raise.
- Pillion Footpegs. Adjust them to the downward position.