Riding on Three-Wheels

Facilitator:
Dave Burhop, Deputy Commissioner/CIO, Virginia DMV

Presenters:
Karen Grim, Assistant Commissioner Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, Virginia DMV
Portia Manley, Director of Field Services, North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles
Joel Sheltrown, Vice President-Governmental Affairs, Elio Motors
Cathie Curtis, AAMVA, Director, Vehicle Programs
1, 2, 3, ....Where is the 4th wheel? This session discusses ‘vehicles’ that have three wheels - either two in the front and one in the rear, or two in the back and one in the front with some even having complete enclosures like a car. Are drivers being tested properly to be safe on the road? How are states using endorsements? What kind of plates should be used? How do we handle reciprocity? How do we define “mobility vehicles?”
The Evolution of the 3-Wheel Vehicle

AAMVA Region II
Karen Grim
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
Once Upon a Time
And the Future is Today
Miracles do Happen
Stakeholders
Survey Says...

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Parts is Parts
Second Childhood
The End
Riding on Three Wheels
June 24, 2015

Portia Manley,
Director of Field Services
NC Division of Motor Vehicles
Riding on Three Wheels

Current NC Motorcycle Law/Policy:
Requires owners and/or operators of motorcycles to:

- Title and register as a motorcycle
- Wear a motorcycle-type helmet
- Pass annual safety inspections
- Posses a motorcycle endorsement or permit
- A restriction is applied prohibiting operation of a 2-wheel motorcycle if tested on a 3-wheel motorcycle

Presently, autocycles are regulated as motorcycles in NC
Autocycle Legislation Introduced Jan. 28, 2015

House Bill 6 amends motor vehicle laws of North Carolina to:

✓ Define three-wheel enclosed motorcycles, identified as autocycles
✓ Develop regulations for autocycles
Proposed NC Autocycle Legislation:

Autocycles are defined as a special type of three-wheel motorcycle equipped with:
- Steering wheel
- Pedals
- Seat safety belts
- Anti-lock brakes
- Airbags
- Enclosed seating area without a saddle seat
- Manufactured to comply with federal laws
Proposed NC Autocycle Legislation:

Differentiates autocycles from motorcycles, which will subject autocycles to certain equipment standards for motor vehicles, including:

- Brakes
- Turn signals
- Lamps
- Headlamps
- Safety belts
- Belt anchorage units for rear seats
Proposed NC Autocycle Legislation:

- Require a standard automobile license only to operate an autocycle (motorcycle endorsement not required)
- Exempt autocycle operators from helmet requirements
- Prohibit autocycles from being used to complete road test for driver license issuances
- Prohibit operation of multiple autocycles driving abreast in a single lane
Questions?

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Can I get a personalized plate?

Can I purchase a license plate for my BIG WHEEL in NC?

See you in NC!
Riding on 3 Wheels

The Good, The Bad, The Future

Joel Sheltrown
Governmental Affairs
Elio Motors - jsheltrown@eliomotors.com

989.387.7551
P4 Prototype
Over 43,000 Presold Reservations
P4 Interior
C.A.F.E Requirements of 55 MPG in 2025

Three Wheels Offer:

- Less Weight
- Less Cost
- Less Rolling Resistance

Elio Motors innovative, 3 wheel design achieves an estimated EPA of 84 MPG
Various Names of Registration:

- Autocycle
- Tri-mobile
- Tri-vehicle
- Motorcycle
- Unconventional Vehicle
- Type 2 Motorcycle
- Three Wheel Vehicle (Canada)
No special license, only a regular driver’s license should be required:

- Autocycles have automotive controls
- Autocycles handle like Automobiles
- Autocycles are too wide to pass the road test
- Very little in the written test would be of any benefit to autocycle operators
- Consistency across jurisdictions. License honored by other jurisdictions?
MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENTS

Endorsement Needed
No Endorsement Needed
Legislators must deal with helmet requirements as well as motorcycle endorsements and registration.

Most states are currently using autocycle definitions to exempt from motorcycle license and helmets.

Definition requirements remain broad between states and definitions and safety requirements between states are not consistent.

AAMVA’s definition does not require vehicle to be enclosed or have seatbelts.
Toyota i-Road
Polaris Slingshot
HELMET LAWS – ENCLOSED 3 WHEEL

- Helmets Technically Required
- Helmets Requirement Age
- No Helmet Required

- MT <18
- AR <21
- AK <18
- HI <17
S 685 - The Autocycle Safety Act

- Provides for a new category – Autocycle and a federal definition for Autocycle
- Requires immediate compliance with a number of passenger car FMVSS as well as all motorcycle FMVSS
- Requires NHTSA to develop additional, appropriate safety standards
- Requires compliance with C.A.F.E
Support Passage of S 685

- Ends confusion
- Helps to provide consistency across jurisdictions
- NHTSA FMVSS requirements assure safety
- Three wheeled vehicles not meeting the Act’s definition in state statute would still be registered as motorcycles in those states
- Canada has already provided a definition for TWV
If you need any assistance in your state working with the legislature, I will gladly provide assistance, materials and information you should find helpful.

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Thank you!!
Three-Wheel Vehicle Working Group

- Created to develop strategies and best practices to assist member jurisdictions in dealing with three wheel vehicles, existing and emerging, in a uniform and consistent manner.

- Completed Best Practices for the regulation of Three Wheel vehicles in 2013
Best Practices
Available on AAMVA’s website
And on DVD
Three-Wheel Vehicle Working Group

The Best Practices provide guidance on:

- Distinguishing between the two types of 3 wheel vehicles
- Registration of the vehicles
- Training, testing and licensing the operators
Two types of 3 Wheel Vehicles:

3 Wheel Motorcycles

3 Wheel Vehicles that are not traditional motorcycles
Three-wheel Motorcycles

- Handle Bars
- Rider straddles the bike
- Not enclosed
Autocycles

- Steering Wheel
- Operator sits in a traditional seat
- May be partially or fully enclosed
Three-Wheel Vehicles Working Group

3 wheel motorcycles recommendations:

✓ Register as a motorcycle
✓ Issue motorcycle plates
✓ Should develop different knowledge and skills test for 2 wheel MC and 3 wheel MC
✓ Driver should be issued a license to operate the type of motorcycle on which they trained and tested - 2W vs 3W
✓ Grandfather current motorcycle license holders from this requirement
Autocycle recommendations:

- Register as an autocycle
- Issue new type of plate with a distinguishing feature to indicate that it is an Autocycle
- Use plate that is the same size as a motorcycle plate
- Require a standard automobile license to operate
The working group hopes that your jurisdiction will consider adopting these best practices to:

- Ensure consistency
- Improve vehicle identification
- Increase accuracy in data collection
- Improve effectiveness of operator training and testing
- Insure the operator has appropriate skills to operate the vehicle
Roster

Rebecca Renninger, Chair, Oregon
Ricky Akase, Hawaii
Brenda Coone, Alabama
Scott Shenk, Pennsylvania
Captain Ronald Saunders, Virginia
Major Dale Schmidt, Missouri
Mary Ford, Iowa
Chris Yanitski, Alberta
Linda Cone, Tennessee
Cathie Curtis, AAMVA
Questions?

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