

ACCESSIBLE STREETS
**EVOLVE SKATEBOARDS RESPONSE TO
CORONER'S REPORT REGULATION 28**



evolve
SKATEBOARDS

The aim of our response is to provide an outline of the actions currently taken as a company to minimise and alleviate incidents and accidents involving use of our product. In addition, we have taken this opportunity to put forward constructive guidelines for the Coroner's review and consideration, that are in line with contemporary personal mobility device (PMD) guidelines globally, that address the safe use of Electric Skateboards within public spaces (roads and shared footpaths), and are enforceable, while still allowing the user to enjoy the product and be active within the community.

SAFE USE OF EVOLVE SKATEBOARDS

Evolve Skateboards actively encourages and reinforces the safe and responsible use of our product through pre and post-sale activity. As a top-line summary, this includes, though is not limited to;

- The reinforcement of safe use guidelines and principles as part of customer service practice and after sales documentation eg user manual.
- Reference to requirements to wear a helmet when using our product as part of FAQ's on our website.
- Reference to the responsibility of customer's to ensure compliance with the safety and legal requirements in their jurisdiction as part of our store policy provided on our website.
- Founding member of a PMD safety group advising the Land Transport Safety and Regulation Bureau, within the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Queensland, Australia, culminating in the legislation for use of PMD's in the state.

In addition, Evolve Skateboards is in the process of conducting a review of its current practice, globally, with regard to safety and legal compliance. This includes the engagement of legal and industry professionals to provide contemporary advice to ensure adherence to standards in each market we operate in. We expect this to be completed and rolled out, globally, including in the UK, by June 30, 2023.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE USE OF PMD'S

DEVICE POWER OUTPUT

The most effective solution for the frontline police officer to police electric skateboards/scooters is by way of restricted 'Speed Limits' for the person controlling the device and a 'Size and weight' category of the device, not by the 'Power Output' of the device. As battery and motor technology are changing rapidly within the PMD marketplace, they are becoming smaller, lighter, more discrete and more powerful year by year. Trying to police these rapid increases in technology will be almost impossible for law enforcement, especially for the police officers on the front line who are not trained engineers (nor should they be).

SPEED LIMITS



Just like motor vehicles used on our roads have restricted speed limits for all types of cars from the average family car to the super car enthusiast, electric skateboards/scooters should have a safe Speed Limit restriction that allows for safe use within our public spaces, yet still allows the user to enjoy the product. In this respect, we suggest the following be implemented in the UK, which has been adopted in the state of Queensland, Australia:

- 1-** A maximum speed limit of 25kph (15mph) for the person using the device. This speed limit is restricted to roads of 50kph (31mph) or less and must be ridden on the sides of roads or in cycle paths if applicable.
- 2-** A maximum speed limit of 15kph (9mph) on share footpaths, however 10kph (jogging pace) in environments where there are high density people on the footpath or road. This is common sense riding and would be applicable to busy inner city spaces.
- 3-** Police are able to issue 'speeding tickets/fines' if the user goes over set speed limit.

SIZE AND WEIGHT OF DEVICE

Electric skateboards are very small in size and weight with most electric skateboards weighing in at less than 8kg. As electric skateboards sit very low to the ground and have a maximum height of 17.5cm (most are 10cm in height), this makes the device very safe for all pedestrians if ever there was a collision compared to a normal bike, scooter or E-bike, as the device only reaches ankle height. However, we would suggest the following size and weight restrictions for electric skateboards be used on shared roads and footpaths;

- 1-** Weigh less than 25kg.
- 2-** Have a width less than 60cm.
- 3-** Have a length less than 1.5m.



SHARED FOOTPATHS, ROADS AND CYCLE WAYS

The safe use of electric skateboards/scooters within the public space is very important, to which, we suggest the following principles be applied:

- 1-** Can only be used roads that have a maximum speed limit of 50kph (31mph) or less and to be used on the sides of the roads or cycle lanes.
- 2-** Can be use on shared footpaths with a speed limit of 10kph (6mph) on inner city footpaths, all other footpaths 15kph (9mph).
- 3-** The electric skateboard/scooter must be under 25kgs in weight and less than 1.5M in length and less than 60cm in width.
- 4-** Common sense and courtesy must be applied when there are pedestrians on the path at the same time and pedestrians always have right of way.

RIDING AT NIGHT

Riding at night will always pose a risk, especially if riding on dark roads. In this respect, we suggest the following:

The electric skateboards must have front and rear safety lights installed and turned on if being ridden at night.

HELMETS

Helmets save lives, with that said we suggest that it is compulsory to wear a Helmet when riding an electric skateboard/scooter and the helmet must be rated to AS/NZS 2063:2008



CONCLUSION

The above suggestions are for the Coroner's review and consideration with regard to using Electric Skateboards/Scooters within shared roads and footpaths, and forms the complete response of Evolve Skateboards UK, to the Coroner's Report Regulation 28.

We believe it is very important to have a set of guidelines that are enforceable and not going to go out of date within a couple of years. Common sense always must remain the responsibility of the user, just the same way people use cars with speed limit restrictions. If the measures are not followed, then law enforcement has the right to issue fines accordingly. Personal mobility devices will become more and more popular in the future due to climate change and our communities' expectations of Government to provide legislative frameworks for electric vehicle and device use. As governments focus more on smartening up their cities, they are looking for viable transportation solutions that can decrease traffic congestion while also creating a cleaner environment for the entire community. Personal mobility devices are part of this solution therefore, creating a safe environment to use personal mobility devices in a shared space is increasingly important.

eMOBILITY CHANGES IN THE UK WITH ELECTROHEADS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF2yFeXX-Eo>

PMD QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA) ROAD RULES

<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/news/features/new-rules-for-personal-mobility-devices>



Penalties

- 1-13** km/h over
Exceeding the speed limit:
More than **\$140***
- 14-20** km/h over
Exceeding the speed limit:
More than **\$200***
- 20-30** km/h over
Exceeding the speed limit:
More than **\$350***
- >30** km/h over
Exceeding the speed limit:
More than **\$570***
- Not wearing a helmet:
More than **\$140***
- Doubling:
More than **\$140***
- Using a mobile phone:
More than **\$1070***
- Drinking liquor while riding:
More than **\$430***
- Riding on a prohibited road:
More than **\$1720***

*Fines can increase from 1 July each year so check qld.gov.au/transport/safety/fines/fines/personal-mobility-device-riding-rules-and-fines for current amounts.

Rules for riders



Rules for personal mobility devices in Queensland including:

- E-scooters
- E-unicycles
- E-skateboards



Scan the QR code for further details, including videos covering these key rules: streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/pmd/get-the-facts

 StreetsmartsQLD

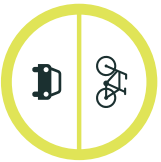
 Queensland Government

Key rules to follow



Reduced speed on footpaths

Speed limit of 12km/h on footpaths and shared paths, unless otherwise signed.



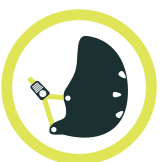
Know where you can ride

- Paths – footpaths, shared paths, separated paths and bike paths.
- Local streets (speed limit of 50km/h or less, no dividing line).
- On-road bike lanes (speed limit of 50km/h or less, or where the bike lane is physically separated from the road).



Maximum speed limit

Speed limit of 25km/h on bike paths and roads.



Always wear a helmet

- Approved bicycle or motorcycle helmets are ok.
- Helmet straps must be fastened.
- Additional protective gear like elbow and knee pads and high visibility clothing is also recommended.



PMD riders must be 16 years old or older

12-15's may ride, but must be supervised by an adult.



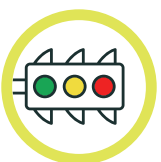
Leave your phone alone when riding

- Hand-held phone use, or resting it on any part of your body is illegal while riding.
- Using a phone in a cradle mounted to handlebars is ok if you are not distracted.



No doubling

Passengers are not allowed, regardless of age or size. This includes no children doubling with parents.



General road rules apply for PMD riders

- Obey traffic lights and signs
- Follow general road rules regarding giving way and making turns
- Indicate when changing direction – either by hand signals or indicators.



Parking

- Park your PMD in designated parking areas. Otherwise, park on the kerbside.
- Don't block the path and keep clear of kerb ramps, building access and exits, tactile ground surface indicators and pedestrian push buttons.
- Do the right thing. Poor parking creates problems for other path users, particularly people with a disability.



Don't drink and ride



Warn pedestrians as you approach

Devices with handlebars must have a bell.



Use lights and reflectors after dark