

MOTORCYCLES

15.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to establish policy, procedures, and guidelines for the use of Department motorcycles, and to establish the duties and responsibilities of the various members and organizational segments responsible for motorcycle program operations.

15.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to utilize motorcycles operated by specially trained members for patrol, traffic-related incidents, traffic control, **dignitary** escorts, or any other incidents requiring the unique capabilities and mobility of motorcycles.

15.03 DEFINITIONS

Certified Operator: A member assigned to patrol who has successfully completed the Department Basic Police Motorcycle Operator certification course and who maintains the requirements for motorcycle assignment as set forth in this regulation.

15.04 REQUESTS

The Director, Bureau of Patrol, shall be notified via Department Correspondence, Form SP 3-201, of all requests for Department motorcycles for a preplanned event/special assignment or dignitary escort. The correspondence shall include:

- A. Date, time, and location of preplanned event/special assignment or dignitary escort.
- B. Duration of preplanned event/special assignment or dignitary escort.
- C. A detailed synopsis of the preplanned event/special assignment or dignitary escort.
- D. Reason for the request.

15.05 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Director, Bureau of Patrol:

1. Administer and oversee the Department motorcycle program.
2. Approve all Department motorcycle training.
3. Ensure training sessions are conducted on a regular basis.
4. Maintain a current list of all members who are certified motorcycle operators.
5. **Approve or deny each request for the use of Department motorcycles for preplanned events/special assignments or dignitary escorts. The Director, Bureau of Patrol, shall notify the affected Area and Troop Commander of such decision.**

B. Troop Commanders:

1. Exercise line authority over members and functions of the motorcycle patrols within their Troop, in accordance with Department policies and directives.
2. Ensure the Director, Bureau of Patrol, is notified **via Department Correspondence of all requests involving Department motorcycles for preplanned events/special assignments or dignitary escorts.**

C. Patrol Section Commanders:

1. Act as liaison for motorcycle operators; Station and Troop Commanders; and the Motorcycle Coordinator, Bureau of Patrol.
2. Monitor the performance of assigned members and evaluate the effectiveness of motorcycle patrols under their command.

D. Patrol Supervisors:

1. Ensure that motorcycle patrol members are assigned to motorcycle patrol duties during their scheduled shifts, and to **preplanned events/special assignments or dignitary escorts, when directed.**
2. Ensure that motorcycles are maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule and OM 7-10, Automotive Transportation.

E. Department Motorcycle Coordinator:

1. Coordinate the selection process for motorcycle patrol members.
2. Coordinate and conduct the Department Basic Police Motorcycle Operator certification course.
3. Coordinate and conduct training and recertification of motorcycle patrol members on an annual basis.
4. Coordinate Department motorcycle patrols and **preplanned events/special assignments or dignitary escorts.**
5. Ensure compliance with Department regulations, while implementing and updating motorcycle policies and directives for the successful operation of the program.
6. Maintain a Police Motorcycle Instructor certification.
7. Maintain proficiency in motorcycle operations.
8. Serve as liaison between affected Troops and other agencies in matters relating to motorcycles.
9. **Ensure Department motorcycles assigned to the Bureau of Patrol are maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule and OM 7-10, Automotive Transportation.**

10. **Ensure Department motorcycles are returned to their assigned location upon completion of the preplanned event/special assignment or dignitary escort.**

F. Department Motorcycle Instructors:

1. **Must be a certified operator currently assigned to the Department motorcycle program.**
2. Assist the Department Motorcycle Coordinator with training and issues relating to motorcycle patrol, as necessary.
3. Maintain a Police Motorcycle Instructor certification.

15.06 AUTHORIZED USE AND ASSIGNMENT

- A. Official Duties: Motorcycles shall be used only in the performance of official Department duties.
- B. Laws and Regulations: Motorcycles shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of the Vehicle Code and Department policies and regulations.
- C. Motorcycle Assignment: Motorcycles shall be operated only by members authorized by the Director, Bureau of Patrol. Assignment to motorcycle duty shall be limited to patrol Troopers who successfully complete all required training and maintain all required certifications.
 1. Motorcycle patrols shall be assigned patrol zones and special assignments that maximize the unique capabilities of the motorcycle; e.g., high traffic volume areas, traffic control.
 2. Motorcycles shall normally be assigned to a **certified** operator. This does not preclude other certified members from using an available motorcycle.
 3. When inclement weather, mechanical circumstances, staffing requirements, or an emergency situation prevent the utilization of motorcycle patrols, members shall be assigned to perform their scheduled shift in a conventional patrol vehicle.

D. Location: Department motorcycles are assigned to the following locations:

1. Troop B, Pittsburgh.
2. Troop H, Harrisburg.
3. Troop K, Philadelphia.
4. Bureau of Patrol.

NOTE: Department motorcycles shall not be utilized outside of the assigned locations and/or outside regular patrol duties without prior approval from the Director, Bureau of Patrol.

15.07 OPERATIONS

- A. Motorcycle Patrol Duties: Motorcycle patrols shall be used to perform regular patrol duties with an emphasis on traffic-related and traffic control duties.
- B. Scheduling: Motorcycle patrol members shall be assigned to motorcycle patrol duties for their scheduled shifts during the operational period. This shall not preclude the temporary assignment of motorcycle patrols to special enforcement activities, special assignments, etc., when approved by the Director, Bureau of Patrol.
- C. Periods of Operation: Motorcycle patrols shall be used from March 15 through November 15. This does not preclude the use of the motorcycle during any other time period, provided that safe operation is not jeopardized. Motorcycle patrols shall be scheduled primarily for daylight operations; however, certain assignments may require their use after dark. Nothing precludes the use of motorcycles during the nighttime period.
- D. Inclement Weather and Unfavorable Conditions: Motorcycles shall not be operated during periods of inclement weather, extremely cold temperatures, or when, in the opinion of the motorcycle operator, unfavorable road or mechanical conditions make the operation of a motorcycle unsafe. For the purpose of this regulation, inclement weather or unfavorable road conditions shall include: snow or ice-covered highways or

berms; driving rain, fog, snow, or other atmospheric conditions which restrict visibility to less than 1,000 feet.

- E. Selective Enforcement: In accordance with AR 8-6, Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs, motorcycle patrols shall be assigned to areas where traffic volumes indicate the use of motorcycles would be more effective than a conventional patrol vehicle.
- F. **Preplanned Event/Special Assignment: Motorcycle patrol members shall be afforded sufficient on-duty time for preparation and travel prior to and upon completion of a scheduled preplanned event/special assignment. Department motorcycles shall not be utilized for any purpose outside of the preplanned event/special assignment unless exigent circumstances exist. The Department utility truck and motorcycle trailer may be utilized for travel to a preplanned event/special assignment and shall be returned to their assigned location upon completion of the preplanned event/special assignment.**
- G. Pursuit: Members assigned to motorcycle patrol should avoid becoming involved in pursuit situations. In the event a pursuit is unavoidable, members must remain cognizant that the motorcycle does not provide the same level of operator protection as a patrol vehicle. Members involved in a pursuit shall conduct the pursuit consistent with the provisions of FR 6-10, Police Pursuits, Legal Intervention, Roadblocks, Pennsylvania Police Pursuit Reporting System, and Pursuit Analysis.
- H. Dignitary Escort: Motorcycles are highly effective in conducting traffic control for motorcade escorts. Every reasonable effort shall be made to ensure motorcycles are available to conduct motorcade escorts. Visits by the President or Vice President of the United States, or any dignitary requiring continuous or direct movement to a specified location shall be priority assignments **when approved by the Director, Bureau of Patrol.**
- I. Passenger Transport: The Department motorcycles, by design, are single-occupant vehicles; therefore, passengers shall not be permitted on Department motorcycles.
- J. Storage: Department motorcycles shall be stored in an enclosed locked area. Secure Department facilities shall be

used whenever available. The motorcycle trailers may be used when secured to the Department utility truck.

- K. Maintenance: Motorcycles shall be maintained in accordance with OM 7-10. Members shall be afforded a reasonable amount of time during the course of their shift to perform any maintenance and cleaning necessary for the safe operation of the motorcycle. Special attention shall be made to ensure the motorcycle speedometer remains certified for accuracy by an Official Testing Station.

15.08 **SELECTION AND RETENTION**

- A. Selection: Motorcycle patrol members **shall** be selected from a list of qualified applicants, in accordance with Article 37, Collective Bargaining Agreements Between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association. Applicants for motorcycle duty **shall**:
 - 1. Maintain the rank of Trooper and be in good physical condition.
 - 2. Possess a Class M driver's license.
 - 3. Successfully complete required Department training.
 - 4. Be willing to remain in the program for a minimum of two years.
- B. Retention:
 - 1. The Director, Bureau of Patrol, shall ensure the continued evaluation of the performance of Department motorcycle operators. Members are expected to maintain proficiency and to submit to a recertification process at any time. Members who leave the program must reapply and submit to the selection process in accordance with Article 37, Collective Bargaining Agreements Between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association.
 - 2. Motorcycle patrol members who transfer or obtain an alternate patrol assignment may submit detailed Department Correspondence, through channels, to the

Director, Bureau of Patrol, **expressing** their desire to remain in the program. Troop Commanders shall provide an endorsement for this correspondence. Authorization will be based on program needs, and considered on an individual basis.

3. Motorcycle patrol members wishing to resign from the motorcycle program shall forward **Department Correspondence**, through channels, to the Director, Bureau of Patrol, requesting their removal from the program.
4. All motorcycle patrol members **shall** maintain professional levels of conduct and performance while operating Department motorcycles and performing regular duty assignments. The Director, Bureau of Patrol, shall have the authority to restrict or dismiss members from the Department motorcycle program.

15.09

DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

- A. Certification and training for motorcycle patrol members include the following components:
 1. Certification: Members selected as motorcycle patrol candidates shall be required to successfully complete the Department Basic Police Motorcycle Operator certification course. Certification shall consist of 80 hours of intensive training in the proper operation of police motorcycles and mechanical skills. Candidates must successfully pass a written test and a practical riding skills examination with a minimum passing score of 90 percent. Inclusion in the motorcycle program is contingent upon successful completion of the motorcycle certification course. There will be no additional opportunities to successfully complete the initial certification program.
 2. Recertification: Motorcycle patrol members must successfully complete annual in-service recertification. Annual in-service recertification shall consist of 24 hours of intensive training and riding exercises. Participants must successfully pass a written test and a practical riding skills examination with a minimum passing score of 90 percent. Operators who fail to successfully

complete recertification shall be afforded one additional opportunity to recertify. Failure to recertify on the second opportunity shall result in removal from the program. Failure to complete recertification within a one-year period **from the member's previous certification** shall result in removal from the program. The Director, Bureau of Patrol, may grant an extension of the annual recertification, when necessary to meet Department needs.

- B. Department Motorcycle Instructors shall be required to successfully complete a certified motorcycle instructor course approved by the Director, Bureau of Patrol. The certified instructor course shall consist of intensive training in the operation of motorcycles and the instruction of motorcycle skills.
- C. **Extension:** With the approval of the Director, Bureau of Patrol, operators who have failed to participate in a scheduled certification/recertification due to injury, disability, or a family emergency may be granted an **extension**. **Operators requesting an extension shall forward Department Correspondence**, to the Director, Bureau of Patrol, with an endorsement of the Troop Commander. **Operators who are granted an extension from the Director, Bureau of Patrol, shall not operate a Department motorcycle until certification/recertification has been successfully completed.** Failure to certify/recertify after one year from the date of the **extension** will result in removal from the program.

15.10 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Authorized Uniform: In addition to the enlisted members' uniform, the motorcycle duty uniform shall consist of the following issued items:
 - 1. Helmet.
 - 2. Tinted and clear eye protection.
 - 3. Leather jacket or cruiser jacket.
 - 4. Lightweight and heavyweight leather gloves.
 - 5. Breeches.

6. Leather motorcycle boots.
7. Rain jacket and rain pants.
8. Cloth crush cap.

NOTE: Additional clothing may be worn for rider comfort, but shall not replace or alter the authorized duty uniform. A training uniform consisting of black Battle Dress Uniform pants and the Department-approved Motorcycle Unit shirt may be worn for motorcycle recertification and work details that may otherwise cause damage to the duty uniform. Members shall at all times wear the issued helmet when operating Department motorcycles.

- B. Replacement of Uniform/Equipment: Lost or damaged equipment shall be reported in accordance with FR 4-1, Loss of or Damage to Commonwealth Property or Equipment. A photocopy of the Loss of or Damage to Commonwealth Property or Equipment report, Form SP 3-404, shall be forwarded, through channels, to the appropriate Troop Commander. Replacement of equipment rendered unserviceable through normal wear is the responsibility of the member's assigned Troop.
- C. Return of Uniform: Upon resignation or removal from the motorcycle program, the member shall return the Department-issued motorcycle uniform to Central Supply through the Troop Procurement and Supply Officer.
- D. Authorized Equipment: Only authorized equipment shall be carried on or affixed to each motorcycle. No modifications shall be made to the authorized equipment without written authorization from the Director, Bureau of Patrol.
- E. Equipment Carried on Motorcycles: The following Department-issued equipment shall be carried on all motorcycles:
 1. First aid and resuscitation kits.
 2. Fusees.
 3. Additional equipment such as measuring tapes and utility blankets may also be carried if storage space permits.

15.11 CRASHES INVOLVING DEPARTMENT MOTORCYCLES

Crashes involving Department motorcycles shall be investigated in accordance with FR 6-4, Vehicle Crashes. In the event a crash involves injury or death, a copy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Police Crash Report, Form AA-500TX, shall be forwarded to the Director, Bureau of Patrol, by the most expedient means.