

Moped MOT test requirements

or what you can get away with

The following information is just my interpretation of some of the requirements for a moped to pass the U.K. Ministry Of Transport annual vehicle roadworthiness test. This is based on my reading of an MOT testers handbook and a conversation with the mechanic who always tests my own bikes and mopeds, with particular reference to modified mopeds like my "trail" moped.

The information was compiled a few years ago and so some details may have changed. It only applies to the U.K., obviously other countries requirements will be different. Do not take this as gospel, check with your own tester, the rules are open to different interpretations by testers. This should **NOT** be regarded as professional advise.

General A moped used to be defined as a two wheeler with less than 50cc engine able to be propelled by pedals. It has more recently been defined as a two wheeler with less than 50cc engine & restricted to no more than 30 mph. They should carry a plate fitted by the maker or importer certifying that they comply with the requirements to make them mopeds, however some of mine do not and it has never caused a problem.

Stop Light Not required on a two wheeler if it is restricted to less than 30 mph, or if it is less than 50cc when older than 1977, that is, anything that is legally a moped doesn't need one.

Indicators Not required on any two wheeler if older than 1986, but if fitted on older bikes they must work. Must be fitted, & work on newer two wheelers. This is except as indicated below.

Front & Rear Lights Are not required when applying for a "Daytime Only" MOT. You can get Daytime Only MOTs for any bike of any age & the certificate is the same as any other, & does not state on the certificate that it is Daytime Only. If your moped has lights fitted, they can be removed or just have the lenses taped over to cover them and then they are not required to work. Indicators are then not required to be fitted on any age moped if it does not have other lights.

Rear Reflector Not required if applying for a Daytime Only MOT.

Horn Must be fitted to all two wheelers. Bikes from before 1950 something, can have a Parp-Parp type bulb horn. Anything later has to give a continuous tone. On our mopeds that means the engine has to be running for the horn to sound, since our horns are AC operated & will not work from a battery. My MOT man, Andrew, says that a children's, push bike, handle bar mounted, type buzzer will meet the requirements. I have heard of other testers that say these are not acceptable. I suppose that fitting a DC operating horn, a separate push button & a 6 volt battery must be ok.

Speedometer Is not required on mopeds.

Tyres Must have "visible tread pattern" only. There is no minimum tread depth requirement for mopeds.

Mudguards and Chainguards Are not specifically required by the manual, but a tester may fail a moped if he considers the guards, or lack of them, make the moped dangerous.

In theory to pass an MOT a moped doesn't actually need an engine !!!

If it has the battery operated horn option shown above, and you require a Daytime Only MOT then there is no need to start the engine. Obviously it still has to pass on all the cycle parts, brakes, bearings, steering and all safety related items. My tester says that he would test a moped with no engine but some testers might insist that they need to be able to road test the moped.

Warning passing an MOT and having a road legal bike are not necessarily the same thing. For instance you can get an MOT with no lights, as above, but I believe that going on the road without lights, even in daylight, might be illegal. If in doubt seek professional advise. You have been warned.