I am a good and skilful rider. Why should I consider further training?

Not all crashes are down to mistakes by riders, but we can all pick up bad habits. The accident statistics among motorcyclists would suggest that everyone should at least have their riding ability tested from time to time.

Don't take any unnecessary risks. Get yourself assessed by your local DSA-accredited trainer today. You can find your nearest trainer by calling us on 0115 936 6546 or visiting our website at www.dsa.gov.uk/RPMTtrainers.



You can receive quality-assured training and enjoy a long, exciting and safe life on the road.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/motoring





*The details contained in this publication are accurate at time of going to print March 2008

THE DRIVING STANDARDS AGENCY

Enhanced Rider Scheme

DO YOU RIDE A MOTORCYCLE? Then why not learn more, stay on top and save money

The thrill of the open road, choose your own adventure, who knows where you will end up...







The enjoyment gained from riding a motorcycle skilfully and safely is second to none. However, it takes confidence, excellent riding skills, physical co-ordination and balance. Keeping our skills up to date and checking that we have not become overconfident, complacent, or picked up some bad or dangerous habits is something that few of us do.

Accident rates high

Worryingly, figures show that motorcyclists are by far the most vulnerable of all road users. In Britain alone, the death and serious injury rate is 16 times higher if you ride a bike than if you drive a car. As a biker you are one-and-a-half times more likely to be involved in a serious accident on a country road, and this greater risk is reflected in high insurance premiums.

Accidents are not necessarily down to poor riding standards alone – inexperience or poor judgement are also factors in many crashes. But how many riders have taken any form of training or instruction since passing the motorcycle test? Perhaps you have just returned to riding after a number of years or are upgrading to a bigger bike or are feeling a bit rusty. Where do you go to get your skills refreshed?

You owe it to yourself to make sure you are as prepared as possible for life on the roads with not just good equipment, but also good skills. The Government are keen to reduce the risks associated with motorbike accidents in Britain, and to improve rider skills. Here at DSA, we place great value on getting training after you pass your test. This can take you beyond the basic skills you need to take to the road, to a level that will improve your own and others' safety. It will also allow you to make better use of the road and gain more enjoyment from the riding experience.

The Enhanced Rider Scheme

We, along with the motorcycle industry, have put together a new package of training known as the Enhanced Rider Scheme (ERS).

The scheme should benefit all bike riders who have a full motorcycle licence, no matter what size of bike, or the experience level of the rider. You will not need to take a test or even any training if your skills are assessed as satisfactory. You will also earn discounts on your insurance as a result.

How does it work?

- We have been working closely with training experts and have developed a training scheme designed to reduce risk and improve your skills.
- We are setting up a network of approved trainers across Britain to deliver these assessments and any recommended training.
- You can visit your local accredited trainer to assess your riding skills.
- If you have no significant areas of weakness, the trainer will give you a certificate confirming that. You can then get an insurance discount from one of the many insurers who have signed up to support the scheme.
- If you do have areas that would benefit from further training, you would qualify for your certificate after successfully completing the recommended training. By having your riding ability assessed, trainers can tailor a development programme to suit your needs.

Many of the leading motorcycle insurers have signed up to this scheme and are prepared to offer substantial discounts to riders who can show they can ride to the ERS standard. The insurers sponsoring the scheme are: AA Insurance, Bennett's Insurance, Bikesure, Carole Nash, Chandler Direct, CIA insurance, Devitt, E Bike, MCE Insurance, Motorcycle Direct, Norwich Union Direct and Lexham. The scheme is supported by the following insurance companies: AIG, AXA, Chaucer Insurance, Equity Red Star, Groupama, Hastings Direct, Highway, KGM, Link/ Zenith, NIG, Norwich Union and Royal & Sun Alliance.

