

NJ State Regulations

39:4-10 Lights on Bicycles. When in use at nighttime every bicycle shall be equipped with: 1) A front headlamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; 2) A rear lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear; 3) In addition to the red lamp a red reflector may be mounted on the rear.

39:4-11 Audible Signal. A bicycle must be equipped with a bell or other audible device that can be heard at least 100 feet away, but not a siren or whistle.

39:4-11.1 Brakes. A bicycle must be equipped with a brake that can make wheels skid while stopping on dry, level, clean pavement.

39:4-12 Feet and Hands on Pedals and Handlebars; Carrying Another Person. Bicyclists should not drive the bicycle with feet removed from the pedals, or with both hands removed from the handlebars, nor practice any trick or fancy driving in a street. Limit passengers to only the number the bicycle is designed and equipped to carry (the number of seats it has).

39:4-14 Hitching on Vehicle Prohibited. No person riding a bicycle shall attach themselves to any streetcar or vehicle.

39:4-14.1 Rights and Duties of Persons on Bicycles. Every person riding a bicycle on a roadway is granted all the rights and subject to all of the duties of the motor vehicle driver.

39:4-14.2, 39:4-10.11 Operating Regulations. Every person riding a bicycle on a roadway shall ride as near to the right roadside as practicable exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. A bicyclist may move left under any of the following conditions: 1) To make a left turn from a left turn lane or pocket; 2) To avoid debris, drains, or other hazardous conditions on the right; 3) To pass a slower moving vehicle; 4) To occupy any available lane when traveling at the same speed as other traffic; 5) To travel no more than two abreast when traffic is not impeded, but otherwise ride in single file. Every person riding a bicycle shall ride in the same direction as vehicular traffic.

39:4-10.1 In New Jersey, anyone under 17 years of age that rides a bicycle or is a passenger on a bicycle, or is towed as a passenger by a bicycle must wear a safety helmet.

Basic Bike Check (From League of American Bicyclists) Remember: ABC Quick Check

A is for Air in tires-Make sure you have proper air pressure to improve rolling and reduce pinch flats.

B is for Brakes-Make sure breaks stop the bike and do not rub the rim or tire when in motion.

C is for cranks and chain-Make sure cranks are tight and chain is well-lubed.

Quick is for quick releases-Make sure quick releases are closed and tight to ensure wheel stability.

Check is for check your bike on a short ride-Perform these safety checks before each ride.

Other Tips

1. Use clear hand signals to let others know when you're turning, changing lanes or stopping.
2. Be courteous on the trail: Stay on your side, give a clear audible signal when passing.
3. Wear bright colored conspicuous clothing
4. Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians and other bikers will do next.
5. Keep your distance and stay behind large vehicles, they have blind spots and make wide turns.
6. Be predictable.
7. Don't use cell phone, headphones or other devices. Your attention and hands must be focused on riding.
8. Know your route before riding to anticipate traffic, road work and hazards.
9. Be familiar with bicycle shops, convenience stores, or friends houses in case of emergency
10. Check the weather forecast for the route, and prepare appropriately (food, fluids, and clothing)
11. Carry a safety kit with tube, pump or CO2 cartridges, tire levers, patches, band aids, antiseptic wipe. Also energy bar, fluids, money, personal identification, emergency phone contact, medical insurance cards.

