Virginia Moped Laws

Effective July 1, 2013:

- Mopeds are subject to general traffic laws – just like cars, trucks, and motorcycles – when being operated on a public roadway (e.g., they must obey traffic signs, signals, and rights of way). COV §46.2-100.

- A moped driver must be at least 16 Y.O.A. COV §46.2-914(B).

- A moped driver must carry a government-issued photo ID displaying the driver’s name, date of birth, and photo. (The ID does not have to be a driver’s license). COV §46.2-914(B).

- A moped driver (and any passenger) must wear a Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved helmet. (i.e., a sports helmet, bicycle helmet, or other non-DOT-approved helmet is not sufficient). COV §46.2-915.2. A DOT-approved helmet will have a DOT sticker on the back demonstrating it meets DOT safety standards.

- A moped driver must wear a face shield, safety glasses, or goggles unless the moped is equipped with a windshield. COV §46.2-915.2.

- Mopeds cannot be operated on interstate highways. COV §46.2-914(C).

- Mopeds cannot be operated at speeds faster than 35 mph; if a moped is being operated at a speed faster than 35 mph – it will be deemed to be a motorcycle, subject to all requirements of motorcycle licensure, equipment, inspection, and insurance. COV §46.2-914(A).

Effective July 1, 2014:

- Mopeds must be titled and registered with the DMV and must display a license plate on the rear of the moped. COV §§ 46.2-613(1) & -711 & -715.

---

1 This is a summary of the laws relating to mopeds and recent changes to those laws. Interested persons should consult the Code of Virginia (COV) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a full description of all laws applicable to mopeds.