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## **LICENSE WAIVER RECIPROCITY**

Upon successful completion of the California Highway Patrol Motorcyclist Training Course (MTC), you'll receive a Course Completion Card. Your state might be one of many states that waive

the on-bike riding skills test and/or the written test required to obtain your motorcycle operator's license or endorsement for that state if you have a Course Completion Card from the CHP MTC. Please contact your state's Motorcycle Safety Coordinator to determine if your DMV will accept the CHP MTC completion card.

## **MOTORCYCLE CHOICES, GEAR & TECHNOLOGY**

### **Motorcycle & Gear Recommendations**

AMO cannot make specific recommendations regarding which motorcycles, gear or technology a student or rider should purchase. Riders may wish to consult with peers and dealership/aftermarket personnel, and may research manufacturer publications (brochures and websites) and enthusiast magazines for reviews and recommendations. It is common for novice street riders to purchase smaller motorcycles on which to gain experience before investing in larger, more powerful motorcycles. Be aware that some manufacturers note in their publications that certain sport-bike models are intended for experienced riders. AMO strongly recommends that you take the CHP MTC to decide if motorcycling is right for you, to prepare you for riding in traffic, and to secure a DMV license waiver to become a licensed rider.

### **Motorcycle Risks**

Generally speaking, motorcyclists - as well as bicyclists and pedestrians -- are more vulnerable than other roadway users to injury in traffic collisions since they don't have the advantage of being protected within pounds of steel. That's why the AMO strongly encourages motorcyclists to minimize the risk by riding responsibly, always wearing protective gear, taking a hands-on rider training course such as the CHP MTC, getting licensed, riding within your personal limits, and riding free of alcohol or other drugs or other impairments (recent reports show that 52 percent of CA motorcyclists who died in crashes were impaired). The CHP MTC stresses the need to learn and use effective mental strategies such as SIPDE: Scan, Identify, Predict, Decide, and Execute. This strategy helps riders manage risk by detecting and avoiding potentially hazardous

traffic situations. Some riders also use the strategy of assuming they're invisible to other motorists, because other motorists may not be on the lookout for motorcycles. Wearing brightly colored protective apparel helps increase visibility, and frequent inspection of the motorcycle helps decrease the likelihood of a crash due to mechanical failure. The maneuverability and small size of a motorcycle can be used in some situations to avoid crashes. While there are many steps a motorcyclist can take to reduce risk, as with many aspects of life, it can never be eliminated. More than 9,000,000 American motorcyclists enjoy the sport, and the trend is that more and more people are turning to motorcycles as a practical, efficient and enjoyable form of personal transportation. If you haven't ridden before, we suggest that you and your spouse/parent/whoever take the CHP MTC and use that as a basis for discussion of the risks and rewards of motorcycling, before making a decision to purchase a motorcycle.