
SAFE OPERATION

Safe Riding Technique

The points given below are applicable for everyday motorcycle use and should be carefully observed for safe and effective vehicle operation.

For safety, eye protection and a helmet are strongly recommended. You should be aware of and verify the applicable safety regulations in force prior to riding your motorcycle. Gloves and suitable footwear should also be used for added protection in case of a mishap.

A motorcycle does not provide the impact protection of an automobile, so defensive riding in addition to wearing protective apparel is extremely important. Do not let protective apparel give you a false sense of security.

When riding always keep both hands on the handlebars and both feet on the footpegs. Removing your hands from the handlebars or feet from the footpegs while riding can be hazardous. If you remove even one hand or foot, you can reduce your ability to control the motorcycle.

Before changing lanes, look over your shoulder to make sure the way is clear. Do not rely solely on the rear view mirror; you may misjudge a vehicle's distance and speed, or you may not see it at all.

In general your actions should be smooth as sudden acceleration, braking or turning may cause loss of control, especially when riding in wet conditions or on loose roadway surfaces, when the ability to maneuver will be reduced.

When going up steep slopes, shift to a lower gear so that there is plenty of power to spare rather than overloading the engine.

When applying the brakes, use both the front and rear brakes. Applying only one brake for sudden braking may cause the motorcycle to skid and lose control.

When going down long slopes, control vehicle speed by closing the throttle. Use the front and rear brakes for auxiliary braking.

In wet conditions, rely more on the throttle to control vehicle speed and less on the front and rear brakes. The throttle should also be used judiciously to avoid skidding the rear wheel from too rapid acceleration or deceleration.

Riding at the proper rate of speed and avoiding unnecessarily fast acceleration are important not only for safety and low fuel consumption but also for long vehicle life and quieter operation.

On rough roads, exercise caution, slow down, and grip the fuel tank with the knees for better stability.

When quick acceleration is necessary as in passing, shift to a lower gear to obtain the necessary power.

96 SAFE OPERATION

Do not downshift at too high an r/min (rpm) to avoid damage to the engine from overrevving.

Avoiding unnecessary weaving is important to the safety of both the rider and other motorists.

Daily Safety Checks

Check the following items each day before you ride. The time required is minimal, and habitual performance of these checks will help ensure you a safe, reliable ride.

If any irregularities are found during these checks, refer to the Maintenance and Adjustment chapter or see your dealer for the action required to return the motorcycle to a safe operating condition.

WARNING

Failure to perform these checks before operation may result in serious damage or an accident. Always perform daily safety checks before operation.

DANGER

Exhaust gas contains carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless poisonous gas. Inhaling carbon monoxide can cause serious brain injury or death. DO NOT run the engine in enclosed areas. Operate only in a well-ventilated area.

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| Fuel | Adequate supply in tank, no leaks. |
| Engine oil | Oil level between level lines. |
| Tires | Air pressure (when cold): |

98 SAFE OPERATION

Front	290 kPa (2.90 kgf/cm ² , 42 psi)
Rear	290 kPa (2.90 kgf/cm ² , 42 psi)

- Install the air valve cap.
- Drive chain Slack 25 ~ 30 mm (1.0 ~ 1.2 in.).
Lubricate if dry.
- Nuts, bolts, fasteners .. Check that steering and suspension components, axles, and all controls are properly tightened or fastened.
- Steering Action smooth but not loose from lock to lock. No binding of control cables.
- Brakes Brake pad wear: Lining thickness more than 1 mm (0.04 in.) left. No brake fluid leakage.
- Throttle Throttle grip play 2 ~ 3 mm (0.08 ~ 0.12 in.).
- Clutch No clutch fluid leakage.
- Coolant No coolant leakage. Coolant level between level lines (when engine is cold).
- Electrical equipment ... All lights (Head, Tail/Brake, Turn Signal, Warning/Indicator) and horn work.
- Engine stop switch Stops engine.
- Side stand Return to its fully up position by spring tension. Return spring not weak or not damaged.

Refer to the "Daily Safety Checks" caution label attached to the tool kit case.

Additional Considerations for High Speed Operation

Brakes: The importance of the brakes, especially during high speed operation, cannot be overemphasized. Check to see that they are correctly adjusted and functioning properly.

Steering: Looseness in the steering can cause loss of control. Check to see that the handlebar turns freely but has no play.

Tires: High speed operation is hard on tires, and good tires are crucial for riding safety. Examine their overall condition, inflate them to the proper pressure, and check the wheel balance.

Fuel: Have sufficient fuel for the high fuel consumption during high speed operation.

Engine Oil: To avoid engine seizure and resulting loss of control, make sure that the oil level is at the upper level line.

Coolant: To avoid overheating, check that the coolant level is at the upper level line.

Electrical Equipment: Make sure that the headlight, tail/brake light, turn signals, horn, etc., all work properly.

Miscellaneous: Make sure that all nuts and bolts are tight and that all safety related parts are in good condition.

 **WARNING**

Handling characteristics of a motorcycle at high speeds may vary from those you are familiar with at legal highway speeds. Do not attempt high speed operation unless you have received sufficient training and have the required skills.