



To: State and Military Motorcycle Safety Coordinators, MSF Chief Instructors

From: Elisabeth Piper, Managing Director *EP*

Subject: MSF Training Motorcycle Policy Change

Date: January 19, 2001

Motorcycle safety training is more important than ever. With the growing interest in motorcycling and motorcycle rider training, it is critical that state and military programs have a wide variety of motorcycle models to choose from to ensure that they can meet the demand for training. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has evaluated current and past practices with respect to training motorcycles and determined that broadening the selection criteria will help support training efforts more effectively. The current policy provides for non-student owned motorcycles of less than 350cc, and student owned motorcycles of any displacement, to be used by recognized training programs.

The new training motorcycle policy recognizes that engine size, weight and seat height should be taken into account when selecting training motorcycles. Therefore, any motorcycle model manufactured for on-highway use that meets two of the following three criteria (as published by the original equipment manufacturer/distributor) may be used in MSF recognized programs.

The three criteria are:

1. an engine displacement of 500cc or less
2. an unladen weight of 400 pounds or less
3. a seat height of 30 inches or less.

Motorcycles that have been modified or that have after-market equipment added to conform to meet these criteria are not allowed to be used as training motorcycles. These criteria do not apply to student-owned motorcycles that may remain of any displacement/height/weight.

It is important to understand that this policy is for training motorcycles generally and does not automatically apply to the manufacturer's/distributor's motorcycle loan program. Each company determines which model(s) to place in the rider education loan program. While this change in MSF policy provides for more models in the loan program, it does not guarantee it.

Please feel free to contact Program Services staff or myself should you have questions.