



# HUMAN SENSES AND JUDGEMENT

## HUMAN FACTORS OF RIDING RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

12. Some of the human factors identified as relating to motorcycle accidents as well as the types of traffic accidents in which motorcyclists are involved includes perception, judgement and reaction associated with riding, reaction time, eyesight and field of vision, judgement of distance and speed, and the discrepancies caused by fatigue, alcohol and drugs.

## RIDER PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS

13. Your physical and mental condition can affect your riding. These conditions are:
  - (a) Your vision,
  - (b) Your physical health,
  - (c) Your mental state,
  - (d) Consumption of alcohol and drugs.

Eighty percent (80%) of information perceived while riding comes through the rider's eyes. It is therefore important that you make optimal use of your eyes when riding. Do not fix your eyes on a particular object for longer than necessary. Keep moving your eyes about every two seconds or so. As the vehicle speed increases, your field of vision would be reduced.

Tiredness, giddiness and being unwell can affect your concentration on the road. If you feel unwell or tired, do not ride. Anger, worry and stress can also reduce concentration and may lead to rash or careless riding on the road.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

14. Consumption of alcohol and certain types of drugs affect your judgement, concentration, reaction time and loss proper control of the vehicle. Some drugs even when taken medicinally may cause drowsiness. If so, do not drive. If you are on medication, check with your doctor whether the prescribed medicine you are taking will affect your riding ability.
15. Alcohol even when consumed in a small quantity, can impair your riding judgement and makes you less safe on the roads. Drinking alcohol and riding is a deadly mix, for your safety and other road users, IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE. If you intend to drive after attending a function, you should avoid drinking alcohol. If you consume alcohol, you should go home by public transport.
16. The prescribed legal limit for blood alcohol content is 80 milligrammes (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres (ml) of blood while that for breath is 35 microgrammes (ug) of alcohol per 100 millilitres (ml) of breath.
17. It is an offence for a person to drive or attempt to drive a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs. If a driver is suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, he/she will be required to undergo a breath analyser test.
18. A person with a BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) exceeding 80mg per 100ml of blood is presumed incapable of controlling his/her vehicle properly. Any person caught driving with blood or breath alcohol content which exceeds the prescribed limit will be charged in court for drink driving. If you failed to have a proper control of your vehicle, you could be charged for drink driving even though your blood alcohol content is below the legal limit. The penalty for a repeat drink driving offender is fine, disqualification and a mandatory jail sentence.