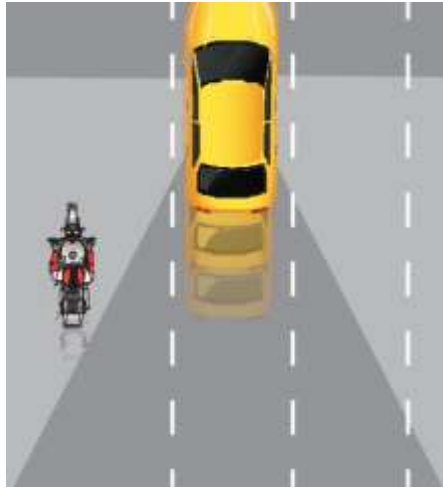


MOTORCYCLE BLIND SPOTS



CAR BLIND SPOTS

You must avoid riding in the blind spots of others as drivers may not see you



HEAVY VEHICLE BLIND SPOTS

Heavy vehicles have a bigger “blind spots” areas. These blind spots are on the sides, in the rear, and in the front of the heavy vehicle.

NATURAL FORCES

26. The purpose of this section is to explain, in an elementary manner, how the Natural Forces are generated when riding a motorcycle, and the effects they have on the moving vehicle and its pillion.

FRICTION

27. Friction is the resistance produced by two objects rubbing against each other. This resistance, or gripping force, varies with the nature of the surfaces of the objects.

Friction between the tyres and the road helps the rider stay on the road. Friction also enables the motorcycle to slow down or stop a moving motorcycle.

It is therefore important to recognise the conditions which reduce friction and the precautions required.

TYRE CONDITIONS AFFECTS BRAKING EFFECTIVENESS

28. Uneven tyre pressure among the tyres may have profound effect on the vehicle when the rider applies hard braking. The different amount of friction produced under different wheels will result in different braking effects. This might cause serious consequences in an event of emergency.

The depth of tyre treads and the tread patterns also determine the amount of friction produced. The deeper the tread, the more the friction. The law stipulates that using a tyre with its tread depth lesser than 1.6mm is an offence.

RIDING ON WET ROAD SURFACE

29. Wet roads reduce friction. This is particularly true during the first 20-30 minutes of rain because grease, oils, mud or dirt accumulated on the road will mix with water to form a very slippery emulsion.

Riders should allow greater stopping distance and should not turn sharply.

When it rains a thin film of water forms on the road surface. If a motorcycle is travelling fast or the tyres have so little treads, the water cannot be squeezed out from underneath, a wedge of water will form in front and under the tyres. The wheels then lose grip and slides on the water's surface. This is called aquaplaning (hydroplaning). The result is loss of steering control.

If a motorcycle begins to aquaplane, the steering feels extremely light. Slow down gently by decelerating. DO NOT BRAKE. Continue slowing until the steering feels normal.