
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. 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.

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.

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

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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.

When riding in wet conditions or on loose roadway surfaces, the ability to maneuver will be reduced. All of your actions should be smooth under these conditions. Sudden acceleration, braking or turning may cause loss of control.

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.

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 every day before you ride may result in serious damage or a severe accident.

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

Front	Up to 165 kg (364 lb) Load	150 kPa (1.50 kgf/cm ² , 21 psi)
Rear	Up to 97.5 kg (215 lb) Load	150 kPa (1.50 kgf/cm ² , 21 psi)
	97.5 ~ 165 kg (215 ~ 364 lb) Load	175 kPa (1.75 kgf/cm ² , 25 psi)

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Drive chain	Slack 35 ~ 55 mm (1.4 ~ 2.2 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. Brake lever play 2 ~ 5 mm (0.08 ~ 0.20 in.)
Throttle	Throttle grip play 2 ~ 3 mm (0.08 ~ 0.12 in.).
Clutch	Clutch lever play 2 ~ 3 mm (0.08 ~ 0.12 in.). Clutch lever operates smoothly.
Electrical equipment ...	All lights 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 back of the right side cover.

Additional Considerations for Off Road Operation

Brakes: The importance of reliable brakes is obvious. 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: Due to the extra stress to the tires on rough roads, be sure to examine their overall condition, and inflate them to the proper pressure.

Drive Chain: When not adjusted properly, the severe stress on rough roads can cause damage to the sprockets and cause the chain to be thrown. Examine the chain slack and alignment, and lubricate if necessary.

Fuel: Have sufficient fuel for the high fuel consumption on rough roads.

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

Miscellaneous: Check to see that the electrical equipment is functioning properly, all nuts and bolts are tight, and all safety related parts are in good condition.