

What is a moped?

A moped is a motor vehicle that is propelled by simply twisting the throttle. Although they may look similar to electric pedal-assist bicycles, in Japan mopeds are classified as motorcycles, not as bicycles.

Differences between mopeds and electric bicycles

	Moped	Electric Bicycle
Mechanism	Runs on electricity even when pedaling.	The motor assists with pedaling. It will not run without being pedaled.
Speed	Can run at speeds above 24 km/h	At 24 km/h the motor will stop.
Driver's License	Required	Not Required
Number plates	Required	Not Required

In order to drive a moped on the road

- ① You must have a valid driver's license.
- ② You must wear a motorcycle helmet.
- ③ Parts such as a headlight, turn signals, and a rear-view mirror, must be installed.
- ④ You must have vehicle liability insurance.
- ⑤ A number plate must be displayed on the back of the moped.

If you ride a moped on the road without abiding by these conditions you could be subject to punishment by a prison term of up to 3 years or a fine of up to ¥500,000.