

Classifying an E-Bike

Traffic incidents involving e-bikes have increased substantially over the past few years. This includes class 4 e-bikes which are classified in the crash reporting system as motor vehicles. Class 4 e-bikes, sometimes called an e-moto, are considered motorcycles. Class 4 e-bikes may or may not have pedals and have an electric motor with 750 watts or higher and speeds of 28 mph or greater.

Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes should be coded as a “non-motorist” with a non-motorist type of “bicycle” and Non-Motorist Power of “Electric”. Please include the class of e-bike in the narrative, if known. The class of an e-bike can typically be found on the frame near the cranks or head tube. This location is where manufacturers affix a permanent label with the class number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage, plus maker details.

Class 4 e-bikes should be coded as “Motor Vehicle in Transit” with a Vehicle Type of “Motorcycle”. Include the brand and model in the narrative. If the e-bike does not have a VIN, please include the serial number.

If a class 1, 2, or 3 e-bike is involved in a crash on a public roadway, and there are no motor vehicles in transit, the crashes would be non-reportable.

If a class 4 e-bike (with or without pedals) is involved in a crash, regardless of the presence of another motor vehicle, and results in an injury or enough damage that the e-bike is inoperable, then the crash would be REPORTABLE.