

Title: Powered Transporter
Devices Safety Guidance

Ref: PS/HROD/SHW/GE.39

Issue: 1

Date of Issue: January 2022

Powered Transporter Devices Safety Guidance

1.0 Introduction

This guidance has been established due to the rising popularity of Powered Transporter Devices (PTDs) and is intended to be used to maintain the safety of members of the University community.

This document covers the use of all types of PTDs including but not limited to the following items; e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards, go-peds (combustion engine-powered kick-scooters), powered unicycles, and u-wheels. This applies to all members of the university community including colleagues, students, contractors and visitors. Disabled mobility vehicles and electricbicycles ('electrically assisted pedal cycles' or EAPCs) are not part of this guidance.

2.0 Legal

Within England and Wales, it is unlawful to ride PTDs on public roads and footpaths in accordance with the Highway Act 1835.

It is also an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 for PTDs to be allowed on public roads unless they meet the same strict criteria as motor vehicles (e.g. in terms of insurance, tax, licence, registration and vehicle construction.)

At time of writing, the sole exception for e-scooter use is for those who wish to participate with Local Council trials to test viability of e-scooters as a safe and effective transport. The following link provides information on how to hire these devices: Transport for London ([TfL](#)) [Electric Scooter trial pages](#) . [Government Guidance](#) for these trials and local operators is in place.

Allowance of these official e-scooter trials has been afforded due to removal of requirements for vehicle registration and licensing within the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 and exemption for vehicle type requirement from the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Personal devices purchased by individuals are currently only permitted to be driven on private land or roads with permission of the land-owner. Subsequently, personal devices are not allowed on our sites as owners/users will be committing an offence due to these devices not meeting the criteria as mentioned above, and because the University will not provide permission for the devices to be used on our sites.

Additional restrictions may also be in place for the transportation of devices on Public Transport, the TfL site should be consulted for the latest guidance. At the time of writing, all privately owned e-scooters and e-unicycles are not permitted on any TfL services.

3.0 Fire Risk

The fire risk from equipment such as this has been widely reported, particularly related to issues with lithium-ion batteries, charging of the equipment and possibly faulty or non-compliant plugs, cabling and cut-off switches. Poor quality imitations of equipment/batteries/cabling including equipment fitted without the correct 3-pin plug for UK use and/or without the correct fuse and/or

equipment non-compliant to BS 1363. This increases the risk of the device overheating, exploding or catching fire both when charging or when not actively being charged.

Additionally, these devices can unintentionally obstruct circulation routes due to their size and prove a trip hazard. They may also impede egress in the event of a fire alarm evacuation.

4.0 Use as part of an approved project or programme

If there is a valid reason to such an item (e.g. filming), a suitable and sufficient risk assessment must be completed by the party seeking permission. This needs to be authorised by the line manager, technician or supervisor for the work to be permitted. For further details on risk assessment please consult the [Safety, Health & Wellbeing policies and guidance](#) pages on SharePoint.

Once a suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been approved, written notification should also be made to the Estates Soft Services Manager by the approver to inform relevant groups such activity is taking place.

As a minimum, risk assessment must include the provision for;

- ensuring the electrical equipment is safe for use
- safe charging or power supply including an electrical safety visual inspection
- safety of the user (information, training, instruction and supervision of users)
- safety of others within the area

Without an approved suitable and sufficient risk assessment, security and colleagues maintain the authority to remove or suspend operations of any self-balancing scooter on campus or within any University property.

5.0 Charging of Powered transporter devices.

Should students or colleagues wish to charge such equipment on site as part of an approved project or programme, they may do so on the following proviso only;

- an electrical safety visual inspection. This can be requested via the local estates and facilities contact or the helpdesk.
- the equipment has a CE marking
- due to fire risks, no device should be left charging when the owner is not in the immediate vicinity or left charging overnight on any of our sites.