MORTH

Draft redefines when a battery two-wheeler is not a motor vehicle

Draft G.S.R. 760(E): a two-wheeled battery-operated vehicle would not be a motor vehicle if certified below 0.6 kW and 25 km/h, with brakes and reflectors.

THE MINISTRY OF ROAD Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued notification G.S.R. 760(E), dated August 21, 2026, publishing draft rules further to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. It appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 694, dated August 25, 2026. The e-Gazette copy, Gazette ID CG-DL-E-27082026-275815, was uploaded and digitally signed on August 27, 2026. The Central Government proposes the rules under section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and publishes them as required by section 212(1). Save as otherwise provided, they would come into force on October 1, 2026. Mahmood Ahmed, Additional Secretary, signed the draft under F. No. RT-11036/23/2026-MVL.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

MoRTH

PUBLISHED

August 21, 2026

ISSUED BY

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

DOCUMENT

G.S.R. 760(E), draft rules amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989



Draft redefines when a battery two-wheeler is not a motor vehicle

MoRTH · August 21, 2026

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued notification G.S.R. 760(E), dated August 21, 2026, publishing draft rules further to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. It appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 694, dated August 25, 2026. The e-Gazette copy, Gazette ID CG-DL-E-27082026-275815, was uploaded and digitally signed on August 27, 2026. The Central Government proposes the rules under section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and publishes them as required by section 212(1). Save as otherwise provided, they would come into force on October 1, 2026. Mahmood Ahmed, Additional Secretary, signed the draft under F. No. RT-11036/23/2026-MVL.

The draft substitutes sub-rule (u) of rule 2, the definition of "Battery Operated Vehicle": a vehicle adapted for use upon roads and powered exclusively by an electric motor whose traction energy is supplied exclusively by a traction battery installed in the vehicle. Its proviso says a two-wheeled battery-operated vehicle shall not be deemed to be a motor vehicle for the purposes of the Act if a testing agency specified in rule 126 verifies and certifies all of these conditions: the vehicle has an electric motor with thirty-minute power of less than 0.6 kW; its maximum speed is less than 25 km/h "or as amended from time to time"; and it is fitted with suitable brakes and retro-reflective devices, one white reflector in the front and one red reflector at the rear.

A pedal-assisted vehicle equipped with an auxiliary electric motor would also have to meet a fourth condition: the motor's thirty-minute power is less than 0.6 kW, and its output is progressively reduced and finally cut off as the vehicle reaches 25 km/h, or as amended from time to time, "or sooner if the cyclist stops pedalling." An Explanation gives thirty-minute power the meaning assigned to it in AIS-049 (Rev.1) and sets the method of verification as prescribed in AIS-041 (Rev.1), as amended from time to time. All vehicles covered by the proviso would have to comply with the safety requirements in Annex A of AIS-049 (Rev. 1), as amended from time to time. The draft also changes rule 125-N: it substitutes item (i) of the proviso with "Vehicle is equipped with an electric motor having thirty minute power less than 0.6 kW;" and omits item (iv).

The draft will be taken into consideration after the expiry of thirty days from the date copies of the Gazette are made available to the public, and the Central Government will consider objections or suggestions received before then. They may be sent to the Additional Secretary (MVL, Transport & Road Safety), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Transport Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110 001, or to comments-morth@gov.in. The draft names no closing date.

The draft does not quote the current rule 2(u), so it does not show the power or speed limits it would replace. It does not say what rule 125-N covers, and does not give the text of the item (i) it replaces or the item (iv) it omits. It does not define "pedal-assisted vehicle" and does not reproduce the AIS standards it cites. It leaves the amendment number in the short title blank. Its

closing note says, as printed, that the principal rules were published by notification G.S.R. 889(E), dated September 16, 2020, and leaves the number and date of the last amendment blank.

Issued by	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Document	G.S.R. 760(E), draft rules amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989
Dated	August 21, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 694, August 25, 2026 (Gazette ID CG-DL-E-27082026-275815)
Amends	Rule 2, sub-rule (u) (substituted), and rule 125-N of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989
Applies to	Two-wheeled battery-operated vehicles, including pedal-assisted vehicles with an auxiliary electric motor
Thirty-minute motor power	Less than 0.6 kW
Maximum speed	Less than 25 km/h or as amended from time to time
Verified and certified by	A testing agency specified in rule 126
Standards cited	AIS-049 (Rev.1) for thirty-minute power and, in its Annex A, the safety requirements; AIS-041 (Rev.1) for the method of verification
Takes effect	As drafted: October 1, 2026, save as otherwise provided in the rules
Comment period	Thirty days from the date copies of the Gazette are made available to the public
Send comments to	Additional Secretary (MVL, Transport & Road Safety), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, or comments-morth@gov.in
Signed by	Mahmood Ahmed, Addl Secy.
File number	F. No. RT-11036/23/2026-MVL

The four conditions in the draft proviso to rule 2(u)

Clause	Subject	Condition, as drafted
(a)	Motor power	The vehicle is equipped with an electric motor having thirty-minute power of less than 0.6 kW
(b)	Maximum speed	Less than 25 km/h or as amended from time to time

(c)	Brakes and reflectors	Suitable brakes and retro-reflective devices: one white reflector in the front and one red reflector at the rear
(d)	Pedal-assisted vehicles with an auxiliary electric motor	In addition to the above: thirty-minute power of the motor less than 0.6 kW; motor output progressively reduced and finally cut off as the vehicle reaches 25 km/h or as amended from time to time, "or sooner if the cyclist stops pedalling"

The notification (draft rules) (PDF, 1.2 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-27082026-275815.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/morth/insights/draft-redefines-when-a-battery-two-wheeler-is-not-a-motor-vehicle/