

# October 3rd Newsletter CA SB 1271

## CA SB 1271

### Bill Summary

California Senate Bill 1271 has passed with changes to product functionality definitions to the 3 Class system as well as requirements for certification and compliance safety standards. The team is working with industry advocacy groups to keep visibility on how this may affect other state and federal regulations in the future. We have aggregated the language below in simplified and detailed views with links to the text from the bill. The team will continue to share information in the coming weeks diving into how this will impact your business.

### Summary Details

#### Effective January 1st, 2025

- Motor Wattage
  - Defines an electric bicycle as a "bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor that does not exceed 750 watts of power."
- 3 Class System Adjustments
  - Start Assistance or Walk Mode
    - Added language into law defining a "start or walk assistance functionality" with a max speed of 3.7 mph
  - Class 1
    - Pedal Assist
      - 20MPH Max Speed
    - Throttle
      - 3.7MPH Max Assistance via start or walk mode function
  - Class 2
    - Pedal Assist
      - 20MPH Max Assistance
    - Throttle
      - 20MPH Max Assistance
  - Class 3
    - Pedal Assist
      - 28MPH Max Assistance
    - Throttle

- 3.7MPH Max Assistance via start or walk mode function

## Effective January 1st, 2026

- State Fire Marshal must adopt regulations that promote the fire and electrical safety of electric bicycles and batteries.
- A certification (UL2849 or EN15194) is required to sell an ebike or ebike battery
- The bike and battery must be labeled in accordance of the certification lab and testing standard
- Brands must have certification documents readily available

## Effective January 1st, 2028

- Rental ebikes require a certification (UL2849 or EN15194) to be legal to rent to customers

# Performance, Function and Class

## Effective January 1st, 2025

### Motor Wattage

- An "electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor ~~of less than 750 watts.~~ *that does not exceed 750 watts of power.*
  - Section 2 Subsection 312.5 (a).
  - We are working with industry experts to have a clear understanding of what this adjustment in the language will mean for our products. We will follow up when we have more clarity on this updated regulatory requirement.

### Start or Walk Assistance Functionality

- A class 1 or class 3 electric bicycle may have start assistance or a walk mode that propels the electric bicycle on motor power alone, up to a maximum speed of 3.7 miles per hour.
  - Section 2 Subsection 312.5 (a)\_(4).

## Class 1 - 3

### Class 1

- A "class 1 electric bicycle," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, except as provided in paragraph (4), that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour, and that is not capable of providing assistance to reach speeds greater than 20 miles per hour.

- Section 2 Subsection 312.5 (a)\_(1).

#### Class 2

- A "class 2 electric bicycle," or "low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- Section 2 Subsection 312.5 (a)\_(2).

#### Class 3

- A "class 3 electric bicycle," or "speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle," is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, that is not capable of exclusively propelling the bicycle, except as provided in paragraph (4), and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and equipped with a speedometer.
- Section 2 Subsection 312.5 (a)\_(3).

#### Class Labeling

- On and after January 1, 2017, manufacturers and distributors of electric bicycles shall apply a label that is permanently affixed, in a prominent location, to each electric bicycle. The label shall contain the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle, and shall be printed in Arial font in at least 9-point type.

## Regulation and Compliance

### Effective January 1st, 2026

#### State Safety Requirements

- Commencing January 1, 2026, this bill would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations that promote the fire and electrical safety of electric bicycles, powered mobility devices, and storage batteries, as specified.
- Section 1 Subsection 26301

#### Bike

- Commencing January 1, 2026, this bill would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, leasing, or offering for sale or lease, an electric bicycle or powered mobility device, as defined, unless the storage battery for the electric bicycle or powered mobility device has been tested by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with a specified standard.
- Section 1 Subsection 26302 (a) – (e).

#### Battery

- Commencing January 1, 2026, the bill would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, leasing, or offering for sale or lease a storage battery unless the battery meets specified requirements.

- Section 1 Subsection 26302 (c) (1-2).

#### Certification Labeling

- Commencing January 1, 2026, the bill would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, leasing, or offering for sale or lease, an electric bicycle, powered mobility device, or storage battery unless the logo, wordmark, label, or name of an accredited testing laboratory and the applicable test standard used to show compliance is displayed, as specified.

- Section 1 Subsection 26302 (e) (1-2).

#### Certification Validation

- Commencing January 1, 2026, the bill would require a manufacturer, importer, distributor, or retailer of an electric bicycle, powered mobility device, charging system, or storage battery subject to testing under these provisions to provide, upon request, a true and accurate copy of the test report for the product issued by the accredited testing laboratory.

- Section 1 Subsection 26304

### **Effective January 1st, 2028**

#### Certification & Rentals

- Commencing January 1, 2028, the bill would prohibit a person from renting or offering for rental an electric bicycle, powered mobility device, charging system, or storage battery unless it has been tested for compliance with a specified standard.

- Section 1 Subsection 26303 (a) - (h).