

Effective April 1st, 2021, Gunma Prefecture obliges all bicycle users to buy bicycle liability insurance (called *jitensha-hoken* in Japanese) !

The Outlines of the Revised Ordinance of the Traffic Safety of Gunma Prefecture

Revision 1

Now, It Is Governor's Mandate.

? Why did it become obligatory ?

A little bit of carelessness can often cause bicycle accidents. Bicycles are easily buyable, rideable, and usable. That is why it is rather necessary to buy bicycle liability insurance for an accident just in case.

A Case of a Hefty
Compensation by Bicycle
Accident ¥ 95,210,000
(Kobe district court. July, 2013)

? What are the revisions ?

(1) Bicycle users

Buying bicycle insurance has changed from "Obligation to Make Efforts(Try) to Buy/Enroll in" to "**Obligation to Buy/Enroll in**". Everyone who uses a bicycle **must buy bicycle liability insurance**.

If bicycle users are **minors**, **their guardians** must buy one.

(2) Business Owners or Employers

When employees use bicycles in the course of their work, **the employers** must buy one.

(3) Bicycle Lenders for Business (such as Operators of Bicycle Rental Shops)

When you lend a bicycle for business, **bicycle lenders** must buy/enroll in bicycle liability insurance.

Revision 2

It Became Obligatory to Make Efforts to Wear a Helmet for Bicycle

? What made it obligatory to make efforts to wear it ?

More than 60% of fatal injuries caused by bicycle accidents are due to **head injuries**. Wearing a helmet can save your lives.

? What has changed this time ?

There was no provision before regarding wearing a helmet for bicycle in the ordinance. However, due to the revision of this time, bicycle users **must MAKE EFFORTS(TRY) to wear a helmet** when riding a bicycle.

[INQUIRIES about Ordinance Revisions]

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Reference: https://www.pref.gunma.jp/06/h28g_00054.html

"Partial Revisions of the Traffic Safety Ordinance of Gunma Prefecture"
on the homepage of Gunma Prefectural Government