



Traffic safety information

Stop traffic accidents

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General Traffic
Affairs Center,
Traffic
Department,
Hokkaido Police

Cautionary Notes for Preventing Tandem Bicycle Accidents



What is a tandem bicycle?

A bicycle with pedals in series, designed to accommodate multiple riders. An amendment to the Hokkaido Traffic Bylaw means that from 1st April 2020, tandem bicycles may be ridden outside of bicycle-only cycle paths (including general roadways).

TANDEM BICYCLE RULES

Tandem bicycles are not "ordinary bicycles"* so they have different rules

Light vehicles

(A tandem is designated as a 'light vehicle 軽車両', but it is not an 'ordinary bicycle 普通自転車')

【Ordinary Bicycle】



【Non-ordinary Bicycle】



Tandems fall outside the requirements for ordinary bicycles, so they are not ordinary bicycles.

【Non-bicycles】

- Carts, trolleys
- Horse-drawn etc carts, cars

Tandems cannot use footpaths!!

The "bicycles allowed" sign on the right applies to Ordinary Bicycles. Therefore, **this sign does not allow passage of tandem bicycles (Non-ordinary Bicycles)**. Tandems should cycle on the left side of a roadway.



自転車通行可

Tips to prevent traffic accidents

- Tandems are longer than normal bicycles. They handle differently, so caution is required.
- Get familiar with the rules, and get plenty of practice riding your tandem in a safe location before riding on the road.
- Communicate well with your partner when starting, stopping, and turning corners.