Traffic Safety



Tougher regulations now in place against alcohol-impaired cycling

Operating a bicycle under the influence of alcohol, or "Shkiobi-unten", has also become punishable by law.



As revised, effective as of November 1, 2024

A person who operates a vehicle, excluding light road vehicles except for bicycles, and has alcohol in the system at or beyond the level prescribed by the enforcement order of the Road Traffic Act in violation of Article 65(1) (Prohibition on Shkiobi-unten) of the Act ...

PENALTY

Imprisonment with labor of not more than three years or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen

Article 117-2-2(1)(iii) of the Road Traffic Act

And ... Three drunk driving related offence provisions of the Road Traffic Act are now applied to cyclists and others related to their ride as well.



Prohibition on provision of a vehicle-Article 65(2)-

 Providing a vehicle, excluding light road vehicles except for bicycles, for a person who is likely to operate the vehicle after drinking

Imprisonment with labor of not more than three years or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen-Article 117-2-2(1)(IV)-



Prohibition on provision of alcohol-Article 65(3)-

Serving or offering alcohol to a person who is likely to operate a vehicle after drinking

Imprisonment with labor of not more than two years or a fine of not more than 300,000 yen-Article 117-3-2(ii)-



Prohibition on being a passenger-Article 65(4)-

Asking for or demanding a ride in/on a vehicle, excluding light road vehicles except for bicycles, operated by a person who you know is under the influence of alcohol

Imprisonment with labor of not more than two years or a fine of not more than 300,000 yen-Article 117-3-2(iii)-

Bicycles are no exception.





Don't operate after drinking