

**Maine:**

## **Safety Inspection of Trailers And Semitrailers In Maine**

[http://maine.gov/dps/msp/vehicles\\_inspections/Maine%20Trailer%20Inspection%20Requirements%20Brochure%20Sept%202007.pdf](http://maine.gov/dps/msp/vehicles_inspections/Maine%20Trailer%20Inspection%20Requirements%20Brochure%20Sept%202007.pdf)

## **Commercial Vehicle Laws and Regulations**

[http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/commercial/Commercial%20Vehicle%20Laws%20&%20Regulations%20\(June%206,%202012\).pdf](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/commercial/Commercial%20Vehicle%20Laws%20&%20Regulations%20(June%206,%202012).pdf)

## **Maine Revised Statutes**

### **101. Definitions**

As used in this Title, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**15-A. Combination vehicle.** "Combination vehicle" means a motor vehicle consisting of a truck tractor in combination with one or more trailers or semitrailers.

**66. Semitrailer.** "Semitrailer" means a vehicle:

A. Without motive power; [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Designed for being drawn by a motor vehicle; and [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5(AFF).]

C. Designed so that some part of its weight and its load rests upon or is carried by that motor vehicle. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2(NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

"Semitrailer" includes, but is not limited to, so-called pole dollies and pole dickeys and wheels commonly used as a support for the ends of logs or other long articles. "Semitrailer" excludes tow dollies.

**71. Stinger-steered autotransporter.** "Stinger-steered autotransporter" means a combination vehicle consisting of a tractor and semitrailer designed and used specifically for the transport of

motor vehicles that has the 5th wheel located on a drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.

**86. Trailer.** "Trailer" means a vehicle without motive power, designed to carry persons or property and to be drawn by a motor vehicle, not operated on railroad tracks, and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle. "Trailer" does not include tow dollies.

### **§2380. Height and width restrictions**

#### **1. Maximum width.**

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §68 (RP); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

#### **2. Maximum height.** The following height restrictions apply.

A. A vehicle with a permanent or temporary structural part more than 13 feet, 6 inches in height measured vertically from a level ground surface may not be operated on a public way or bridge. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §69 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. A vehicle may not be operated on a public way or bridge if the load extends more than 6 inches above the maximum permissible structural height of the vehicle. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §69 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. A vehicle may not be operated over a section of a way or bridge that does not provide adequate overhead clearance. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §69 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §69 (RPR); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

**3. Maximum width; exceptions.** A vehicle that is wider than 102 inches over all may not be operated on a public way or bridge. A portion of a vehicle or load may not project beyond the side of that vehicle to make a total width greater than 102 inches, except as provided in this subsection and subsections 3-A and 4. The following conditions and appurtenances attached to a commercial motor vehicle are excluded from the measurement of width if they do not extend more than 3 inches from the side of a vehicle:

A. Corner caps; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

B. Rear and side door hinges and their protective hardware; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

C. Rain gutters; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

D. Side lamp markers; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

E. Lift pads for piggyback trailers; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

F. Hazardous materials placards; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

- G. Tarps and tarp hardware; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - H. Tiedown assemblies on platform trailers; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - I. Weevil pins and sockets on lowbed trailers; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - J. Steps and handholds for entry and egress; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - K. Flexible fender extensions; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - L. Mud flaps and splash and spray suppressant devices; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - M. Refrigeration units or air compressors; [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - N. Load-induced tire bulge; and [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
  - O. Wall variation from true flat. [1995, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]
- [ 2005, c. 482, §5 (AMD) .]

**3-A. Maximum width; additional exceptions.** In addition to the exceptions in subsection 3, the following are excluded from the measurement of vehicle width:

- A. Reflecting mirrors; [2005, c. 482, §6 (NEW).]
  - B. Turn signal lamps; and [2005, c. 482, §6 (NEW).]
  - C. Appurtenances on motor homes, truck campers and camp trailers, if such appurtenances extend no more than 6 inches from either side of the body of the vehicle. [2005, c. 482, §6 (NEW).]
- [ 2005, c. 482, §6 (NEW) .]

**4. Hay.** Notwithstanding subsection 3, rolled baled hay may be loaded on a vehicle not to exceed 11 feet in width when transported within a 20-mile radius of the farm on which the hay is harvested or stored. A vehicle used for the transportation of rolled baled hay may not be operated on a public way during nighttime.

[ RR 2003, c. 2, §94 (COR) .]

**5. Wood piled in tiers.** If firewood, pulpwood or bolts are piled in tiers from the front to rear of the vehicle:

- A. When the load will pitch to the center of the vehicle, a strip of wood or metal 3 inches thick must extend along the sides of the platform, from front to rear, securely fastened to the platform. [1995, c. 247, §6 (AMD).]
- B. [1995, c. 247, §7 (RP).]

The vehicle so loaded must carry a solid-boarded tailboard or 5 stakes of sufficient strength evenly spaced to maintain the weight of the load. The load may not at any place be higher than the tailboard or stakes.

[ 1995, c. 247, §§6, 7 (AMD) .]

**6. Liability.** A person damaging a bridge or overpass with a vehicle or load in excess of the legal height or width limits established in this chapter or a posted limit is deemed the proximate cause of all damage and is liable for the costs of all repairs necessary to restore the structure to its condition prior to the accident. Officials in charge of the maintenance of a bridge or overpass may bring a civil action to recover the costs of repairs.

[ 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

**7. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged, except that the minimum fine for a violation of a posted bridge height is \$250.

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §71 (AMD); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

**8. Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:

A. Snow plows and equipment used exclusively for the removal of snow from public ways; [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Construction equipment used on way and bridge construction projects; and [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A load of loose hay, pea vines, cornstalks or other loosely mounded loads that can not damage structures or threaten public safety. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[ 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

### **§2389. Truck, trailer and combinations; limitations**

**1. Limitation on drawn trailers.** Only one trailer or semitrailer may be drawn by a motor vehicle, except that a combination of a truck tractor, semitrailer and full trailer may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411. "Driveaway" and "towaway" operations, as defined by the Secretary of State, may include a combination of saddlemount vehicles not to exceed 3 units in contact with the road.

[ 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

**2. Converted semitrailers.** A semitrailer converted to a trailer by use of a converter dolly remains a semitrailer for all other purposes in this Title and is considered one vehicle while connected.

## **§2390. Maximum length limits**

**1. Trucks and trailers.** The following maximum length limits include permanent or temporary structural parts of the vehicle and load, but do not include refrigeration units or other nonload-carrying appurtenances permitted by federal regulation.

A. A vehicle may not exceed 45 feet, except as provided in this section. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. The maximum overall length of a combination of vehicles may not exceed 65 feet unless otherwise permitted by law. [1999, c. 753, §6 (AMD).]

C. A trailer or semitrailer may be greater than 45 feet but not more than 48 feet in structural length only if the distance between the center of the rearmost axle of the truck tractor and the center of the rearmost axle of the trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 38 feet.

The overall length of the combination of truck tractor and trailer or semitrailer in this paragraph may not exceed 69 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle, including any rear overhang.

The interaxle distance and overall combination vehicle length maximum limits required by this paragraph do not apply on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411. [2005, c. 170, §1 (AMD).]

D. The load on a combination vehicle transporting tree-length logs exclusively may extend rearward beyond the body of the vehicle by no more than 8 1/2 feet, as long as no more than 25% of the length of the logs extends beyond the body and the total length of the vehicle and load does not exceed 74 feet. [2001, c. 267, §12 (AMD); 2001, c. 267, §16 (AFF).]

E. A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or semitrailer may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, if the trailer or semitrailer length does not exceed 48 feet. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer and full trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, if no semitrailer or trailer length exceeds 28.5 feet. This vehicle combination may also operate on other highways designated by the Commissioner of Transportation. [2003, c. 166, §14(AMD).]

G. A stinger-steered autotractor may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length not to exceed 75 feet. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

H. A combination vehicle designed for and transporting automobiles may be operated with an additional front overhang of not more than 3 feet and rear overhang of not more than 4 feet. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5(AFF).]

I. Drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter combinations with an overall length not exceeding 97 feet may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411. [2007, c. 306, §8 (AMD).]

J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a single semitrailer whose total structural length exceeds 48 feet but does not exceed 53 feet may be operated in combination with a truck tractor on a highway network if the following conditions are met.

(1) The wheelbase of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin to the center of the rearmost axle of the semitrailer, may not exceed 43 feet.

(2) The kingpin setback of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin to the front of the semitrailer, may not exceed 3 1/2 feet in length.

(3) The rear overhang of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the center of the rear tandem axles of the semitrailer to the rear of the semitrailer, may not exceed 35% of the wheelbase of the semitrailer.

(4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear underride guard that is of sufficient strength to prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer to within an average distance of 4 inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer, exclusive of safety bumper appurtenances, and is placed at a height not exceeding 22 inches from the surface of the ground as measured when the semitrailer is empty and is on a level surface.

(5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle lights that comply with or exceed federal standards and reflective material approved by the Commissioner of Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle combination has a wide turning radius.

(8) Except as provided in subparagraph (10), the overall length of the truck tractor and semitrailer combination of vehicles traveling beyond the national network may not exceed 74 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on

or in the vehicle. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "national network" means those highways in the State identified under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

(9) Notwithstanding section 2380, the width of the semitrailer must be 102 inches, except that the width of the rear safety bumper and appurtenances to the safety bumper may not exceed 103 inches and except that the width of a flatbed or lowboy semitrailer, measured as the distance between the outer surface edges of the semitrailer's tires, must be at least 96 inches but no more than 102 inches.

(10) For vehicles whose overall length exceeds 74 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle, access is permitted to service facilities or terminals within one mile of the national network. For purposes of this subparagraph, "national network" means those highways in the State identified under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

(12) This vehicle combination may not transport cargo that has been prohibited for this vehicle combination by the Commissioner of Transportation.

(13) This paragraph does not apply to a trailer or semitrailer when transporting or returning empty from transporting a nondivisible load or object under the provisions of an overlimit permit granted by section 2382.

Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the department under Title 23, section 52 to adopt rules prohibiting or limiting access by semitrailers or other vehicles to a highway or portion of a highway or other segment of the transportation infrastructure in order to ensure public safety. [2005, c. 478, §1 (AMD).]

#### § 1902. **Brakes**

- **1. GENERAL RULE.** A motor vehicle must have adequate **brakes** in good working order that are sufficient to control the vehicle.
- **2. SPECIFIC STANDARDS. Brakes** must be adjusted so as to stop:
  - **A.** A 2-wheel **brake** vehicle, within a distance of 45 feet, from a speed of 20 miles per hour;
  - **B.** A 4-wheel **brake** vehicle, within 30 feet, from a speed of 20 miles per hour; or
  - **C.** A motorcycle, within 30 feet, from a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- **3. PARKING BRAKES.** A vehicle, except a 2-wheel motorcycle, must be equipped with parking **brakes** adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material.

#### Parking **brakes**:

- **A.** Must be capable of being applied by the driver's muscular effort, spring action or equivalent means;

- **B.** May be operated with assistance of the service **brakes** or other source of power, provided that failure of the service **brake** actuation system or other power assisting mechanism does not prevent the parking **brakes** from being applied;
  - **C.** Must be designed so that, once applied, they remain applied with the required effectiveness despite leakage or exhaustion of any source of energy;
  - **D.** May share the same **brake** drums, **brake** shoes and lining assemblies, **brake** shoe anchors and mechanical **brake** shoe actuation mechanisms associated with the wheel **brake** assemblies used for service **brakes**; and
  - **E.** If the means of applying the parking and service **brakes** are connected, must be constructed so that failure of one part does not leave the vehicle without operative **brakes**.
- **4. TRUCKS; SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.** Special mobile equipment or a truck, truck tractor, **trailer** or semitrailer must be equipped with adequate **brakes** acting on all wheels of all axles, except that the following need not meet this requirement:
    - **A.** A **trailer** or semitrailer not exceeding a gross weight of 3,000 pounds;
    - **B.** A vehicle towed by use of a wrecker;
    - **C.** A vehicle meeting **braking** requirements of the motor carrier safety regulations of the United States Department of Transportation;
    - **D.** A semitrailer with a gross weight of semitrailer and load not to exceed 12,000 pounds, designed and used exclusively:
      - **1)** For the dispensing of cable from attached reels, commonly called a reel **trailer**; or
      - **2)** To support the end of poles while being transported, commonly called a pole dolly; and
    - **F.** A dolly axle, so-called, on a farm truck transporting agricultural products and supplies.

A dolly axle may not be considered in determining the gross weight or axle limits permitted on the vehicle.

A 2-axle or 3-axle farm truck equipped with a dolly axle is considered a 2-axle or 3-axle vehicle.

- **5. MULTIPLE AXLES.** If equipped with 3 or more axles, a truck, tractor or truck tractor manufactured prior to August 1, 1980 need not have **brakes** on the front wheels; if

the vehicle is equipped with 2 or more steerable axles, the wheels of one such axle need not have **brakes**.

- **6. RULES.** The Chief of the State Police may adopt rules governing the sufficiency and adjustment of **brakes**.

§ 32:308. Additional equipment required on buses, trucks, truck tractors, trailers, semi-trailers and pole trailers.

In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, the following vehicles shall be equipped as herein stated under the conditions stated in R.S. 32:301.

A. Buses, trucks, motor homes, and motor vehicles with mounted truck camper, eighty or more inches in width shall meet equipment requirements as follows:

(1) On the front: two clearance lamps, one at each side, and all such vehicles manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1972 shall have three identification lamps meeting the specification of Subsection F of this section.

(2) On the rear: two clearance lamps, one at each side, and all such vehicles assembled or manufactured after December 31, 1972 shall have three identification lamps meeting the specifications of Subsection F of this section.

(3) On each side: two side marker lamps and two reflectors one of each at or near the rear and at or near the front.

B. Trailers and semi-trailers eighty inches or more in width, except boat trailers, shall meet equipment requirements as follows:

(1) On the front: two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(2) On the rear: two clearance lamps, one at each side, and all such vehicles manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1972, three identification lamps meeting the specifications of Subsection F of this section.

(3) On each side: two side marker lamps and two reflectors one of each at or near the front and at or near the rear.

C. Truck tractors shall meet equipment requirements as follows:

(1) On the front: two cab clearance lamps, one at each side, and on vehicles manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1972, three identification lamps meeting the specifications of Subsection F of this section.

(2) On each side: two amber side marker lamps and two amber reflectors, one of each at or near the front and at or near the rear.

D. Trailers, semi-trailers and pole trailers thirty feet or more in length shall have one amber side marker lamp and one amber reflector, centrally located with respect to the length of the trailer, on each side. Pole trailers shall also have on each side, at the rearmost support for the load, one combination marker lamp showing amber to the front and red to the rear and side, mounted to indicate maximum width of the pole trailer.

E. Boat trailers eighty inches or more in width shall meet equipment requirements as follows:

(1) On each side: two side marker lamps and two reflectors, one of each at or near the front and at or near the rear, and at or near the midpoint, one clearance lamp performing the function of both a front and rear clearance lamp.

(2) On the rear of boat trailers manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1972, shall be three identification lamps meeting the specifications of Subsection F of this section.

F. Whenever required or permitted by this chapter, identification lamps shall be mounted as close as practicable to the top of the vehicle, and grouped in a horizontal row, one on the vertical center line and one on each side of the vertical center line with lamp centers spaced not less than six inches or more than twelve inches apart; provided, however, that where the cab of a vehicle is not more than forty-two inches wide at the front roof line, a single identification lamp at the center of the cab shall be deemed to comply with the requirements for front identification lamps.

**3. SAFETY CHAINS.** A **trailer**, semitrailer or vehicle being towed must, in addition to the tow bar or coupling device, have a **safety chain** or steel cable so attached as to prevent breakaway from the towing vehicle.

The **chain** or steel cable must be made of not less than 1/4-inch wire.

This subsection does not apply to truck tractor and semitrailer units equipped with 5th wheel mechanism.