

Maine:

Trailer Summary:

Dimensions: Dimensions shall not exceed: a total length of 65 feet; a trailer length of 45 feet; a trailer width of 102 inches; and a height of 13 feet 6 inches.

Brakes: A trailer with a gross weight of 3,000 lbs. or greater is required to have adequate brakes acting on all wheels of all axles.

Lighting/Reflectors: Trailers are required 12 inches of the extreme extension of the vehicle, except for trailers with lights, reflectors, and signals installed by the manufacturer.

A trailer that is wider than the vehicle towing it must have reflective material or a lamp on each front corner visible to oncoming traffic.

Hitch/Signals: A trailer, semitrailer or vehicle being towed must, in addition to the tow bar or coupling device, have a safety chain made of not less than 1/4-inch wire.

Mirrors: Mirrors must reflected a view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle for a distance of at least 200 feet.

Speed Limits: N/A

Towing: Only one tiny home, 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.

Other: N/A

Maine Revised Statutes

101. Definitions

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

19-A. Trailer. "Trailer" means a vehicle without motive power and mounted on wheels that is designed to carry persons or property and to be drawn by a motor vehicle and not operated on tracks.

§2380. Height and width restrictions

1. Repealed. Laws 2003, c. 452, § Q-68, eff. July 1, 2004.

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.

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.

C. A vehicle may not be operated over a section of a way or bridge that does not provide adequate overhead clearance.

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;
- B. Rear and side door hinges and their protective hardware;
- C. Rain gutters;
- D. Side lamp markers;
- E. Lift pads for piggyback trailers;
- F. Hazardous materials placards;
- G. Tarps and tarp hardware;
- H. Tiedown assemblies on platform trailers;
- I. Weevil pins and sockets on lowbed trailers;
- J. Steps and handholds for entry and egress;
- K. Flexible fender extensions;
- L. Mud flaps and splash and spray suppressant devices;
- M. Refrigeration units or air compressors;
- N. Load-induced tire bulge; and
- O. Wall variation from true flat.

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;
- B. Turn signal lamps;
- 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; and
- D. Extended stop arms as defined in section 2301, subsection 1-D.

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.

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.

B. Repealed. Laws 1995, c. 247, § 7.

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.

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.

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.

8. Exceptions. This section does not apply to:

A. Snow plows and equipment used exclusively for the removal of snow from public ways;

B. Construction equipment used on way and bridge construction projects;

C. A load of loose hay, pea vines, cornstalks or other loosely mounded loads that can not¹ damage structures or threaten public safety; and

D. Snowplows and equipment mounted on a vehicle traveling from one work location to another work location during a snow event, or traveling from the point of purchase to a storage location, as long as the vehicle does not exceed 108 inches in total width. For the purposes of this paragraph, "snow event" means the period beginning 48 hours before a snowstorm and ending 48 hours after the snowstorm.

§2389. Truck, trailer and combinations; limitations

1. Limitation on drawn trailers and tiny homes. Only one tiny home, 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 411.¹ “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.

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. Tiny homes, trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles. The following maximum length limits apply to tiny homes, trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles and 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.

B. The maximum overall length of a combination of vehicles may not exceed 65 feet unless otherwise permitted by law.

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 411.¹

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 ½ 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.

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.

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.

G. A stinger-steered autotransporter 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 80 feet.

H. A combination vehicle designed for and transporting automobiles may be operated with an additional front overhang of not more than 4 feet and rear overhang of not more than 6 feet.

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.

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 45 feet, 6 inches.

(2) The kingpin setback of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin to the front of the semitrailer, may not exceed 3 ½ 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.

(6) Repealed. Laws 2003, c. 166, § 15.

(7) Repealed. Laws 2001, c. 267, § 13, eff. Jan. 31, 2002.

(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.

(11) Repealed. Laws 2003, c. 253, § 4, eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

(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.

K. A tow-away transporter combination may be operated with an overall length not exceeding 82 feet 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 federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, Section 5523 (2016).

2. Articulated buses. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, articulated buses may be operated or caused to be operated as long as the following conditions are met:

- A. The total length of the vehicle does not exceed 61 feet, excluding bumpers;
 - B. The rearmost axle of the vehicle is self-steering;
 - C. The vehicle is equipped with an interlock device to prevent the vehicle from jackknifing while backing up;
 - D. The vehicle is equipped with an audible or visible signal that indicates to the driver who overrides the interlock device when the vehicle is nearing the jackknife position; and
 - F.² The turntable floor is properly aligned to maintain a level surface while the vehicle is in operation.
3. Exemption. Fire department vehicles and disabled motor vehicles being towed to a repair facility are exempt from length restrictions.
4. Rules of access. The Commissioner of Transportation shall adopt rules consistent with the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424,³ to ensure reasonable access to vehicles described in subsection 1, paragraphs E, F, G and I between 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, and terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest and points of loading and unloading for household goods carriers. The commissioner may issue permits for that travel.

§ 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, tiny home, 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.¹ A dolly axle, so-called, on a farm truck transporting agricultural products and supplies.

§ 2385. Protruding objects and trailers

1. Warning device. A vehicle carrying an object that projects more than 4 feet from the rear must carry, at or near the rear of the object:

- A. During nighttime, a red light; and
- B. At all other times, a clean fluorescent cloth at least 12 by 12 inches.

2. Logs. During the hours when lights are required, a vehicle carrying logs that project more than 4 feet from the rear of the vehicle must display a red reflector or reflectorized paint on the end of the log projecting furthest to the rear. The reflector or reflectorized paint must be of sufficient size and properly located and maintained so as to reflect, at night on an unlighted highway, the undimmed headlights of a vehicle approaching from the rear for at least 200 feet.

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.

4. Trailers and tiny homes. A trailer, tiny home or semitrailer that is wider than the vehicle towing it must be equipped with reflective material or a lamp on each front corner that is visible to oncoming traffic.

§ 1908. Location of rear lights, reflectors and signal lamps

On a vehicle 7 feet wide or wider, all rear lights, reflectors and signal lights must be within 12 inches of the extreme extension of the vehicle.

On flat-body dump trucks, rear lights and signal lamps may be mounted on the rear of the frame. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors or to trailers with rear lights, reflectors and signal lights installed by the commercial manufacturer.

§ 1913. Mirrors

1. Mirrors required. A person may not operate on a public way a vehicle so constructed, equipped, loaded or used that the operator is prevented from having a constantly free and unobstructed view of the way immediately to the rear, unless there is attached a mirror or reflector placed and adjusted to afford the operator a clear, reflected view of the highway to the rear of the vehicle for a distance of at least 200 feet.

2. Temporary mirrors. When a vehicle is operated without a trailer or semitrailer, temporary outside rearview mirrors must be removed or otherwise adjusted so as not to extend beyond the width of the automobile.

3. Motorcycles. A motorcycle must be equipped with a rear view mirror mounted and adjusted to afford the operator a clear, reflected view of the highway in the rear for a distance of at least 200 feet.