

CHAPTER 17

EQUIPMENT

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1901. General restriction

A person may not use a vehicle on a public way or sell or equip a vehicle for use on a public way with aftermarket equipment contrary to this Title or contrary to the rules of the Chief of the State Police. [PL 2007, c. 121, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 121, §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.

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

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

B. A 4-wheel brake vehicle, within 30 feet, from a speed of 20 miles per hour; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A motorcycle, within 30 feet, from a speed of 20 miles per hour. [PL 2005, c. 577, §22 (AMD).]

[PL 2005, c. 577, §22 (AMD).]

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

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

C. Must be designed so that, once applied, they remain applied with the required effectiveness despite leakage or exhaustion of any source of energy; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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

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. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2005, c. 577, §23 (AMD).]

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

B. A vehicle towed by use of a wrecker; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A vehicle meeting braking requirements of the motor carrier safety regulations of the United States Department of Transportation; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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 [PL 1999, c. 183, §5 (AMD).]

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

[PL 2019, c. 650, §12 (AMD).]

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

6. Rules. The Chief of the State Police may adopt rules governing the sufficiency and adjustment of brakes. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 183, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 577, §§22,23 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 650, §12 (AMD).

§1903. Adequate signaling device; use

1. Signaling device required. A person may not operate a motor vehicle without a suitable and adequate horn or other device for signaling. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §19 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Unnecessarily sounded. A person may not unnecessarily sound a signaling device or horn. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §19 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q19 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§1904. Headlights

1. General rules; headlights. A person may not operate a motor vehicle that does not meet the following requirements concerning headlights.

A. A motor vehicle must be equipped with headlights. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §20 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. Headlights must be of sufficient power and so adjusted and operated as to enable the operator to proceed with safety under all ordinary conditions of highway and weather. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §20 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §20 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Location of headlights. On a motor vehicle, a headlight must be located at a height, measured from the center of the headlight, of not more than 54 inches nor less than 22 inches above the level surface on which the vehicle stands. Headlights on snow plows may be at a height greater than 54 inches.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. White light. Headlights must be equipped with lenses or reflectors that emit only white light.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Number of headlights. The following rules apply regarding the mounting of headlights.

A. A motor vehicle must have mounted on the front at least 2 headlights, one on each side. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. A motorcycle must have one mounted headlight. [PL 2005, c. 577, §24 (AMD).]
[PL 2005, c. 577, §24 (AMD).]

5. Requirements. The following requirements apply to a headlight.

A. If the vehicle is mechanically constructed so that it is limited to less than 15 miles per hour, it must have headlights capable of furnishing sufficient candlepower to render any substantial object clearly discernible on a level way at least 50 feet directly ahead and at the same time at least 7 feet to the right of the axis of the vehicle for a distance of at least 25 feet. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. If the vehicle is mechanically constructed so that it can exceed 15 miles per hour, it must have headlights capable of furnishing sufficient candlepower to render any substantial object clearly discernible on a level way at least 200 feet directly ahead and at the same time at least 7 feet to the right of the axis of the vehicle for a distance of at least 100 feet. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A headlight capable of furnishing more than 4 candlepower, if equipped with a reflector, may not be used unless the headlight is designed, equipped or mounted so that no portion of the beam of light, when projected 75 feet or more ahead, rises above a plane of 42 inches higher than and parallel with the level surface on which the vehicle stands. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. The top of a main beam of light may not be higher than the headlight center. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. An electric bulb or other lighting device of a greater capacity than 32 candlepower may not be used, except for the standard equipment sealed beam unit. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. A headlight may not project the top of a main beam, at a distance of 25 feet ahead of the vehicle, on an approximately level stretch of highway, onto the body of a person or an object, at a height greater than that of the center of the front light from the highway. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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

6. Motorcycle. A motorcycle that does not have an adequate beam for headlights is restricted to daytime operation.

[PL 2005, c. 577, §25 (AMD).]

7. Exception for farm tractors. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §§Q20,21 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 577, §§24,25 (AMD).

§1905. Rear lights

1. Requirement. Except as provided in subsection 3, a motor vehicle with 3 or more wheels or a tiny home, trailer or semitrailer must have on the rear 2 lights, one on each side of the axis, each capable of displaying a red light visible for a distance of at least 100 feet behind the vehicle.

[PL 2019, c. 650, §13 (AMD).]

2. Vehicles used in conjunction. When a vehicle is used in conjunction with another vehicle, only the last must carry the lights.

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

3. Vehicles manufactured with one rear light. If a vehicle was manufactured with only a single rear light, that light is sufficient if the light complies with the visibility requirement and is in the center or to the left of the vehicle's axis.

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

4. Exception for farm tractors. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 314, §10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 650, §13 (AMD).

§1905-A. Turn signal

1. Requirement. Except as provided in subsection 3, a motor vehicle, tiny home, trailer or semitrailer must be equipped with electric flashing turn signal lamps. A motor vehicle must emit white or amber light from the turn signals to the front of the vehicle and a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer must emit amber or red light from the turn signals to the rear of the vehicle.

[PL 2019, c. 650, §14 (AMD).]

2. Vehicles physically connected. When a vehicle that is being operated is physically connected to another vehicle, only the last vehicle must carry turn signals to the rear.

[PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

3. Vehicles manufactured without turn signal. Automobiles and trucks less than 80 inches in width, manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1953 need not be equipped with electric turn signal lamps.

[PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

4. Exception for farm tractors. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors.

[PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 584, §A2 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 650, §14 (AMD).

§1905-B. Brake lights

1. Requirement. All factory-installed brake lights or equivalent replacements on a motor vehicle, tiny home, trailer or semitrailer must be present and operating properly and must emit a steady red light when a slight pressure is placed on the brake pedal, and the light emitted must be visible for a distance of at least 100 feet behind the vehicle. For purposes of this section, "steady red light" means a red light that is either immediately constant and not pulsating or that pulsates for a short period and then becomes constant.

[PL 2019, c. 650, §15 (AMD).]

2. Vehicles used in conjunction. When a vehicle is used in conjunction with another vehicle, only the last vehicle must carry the lights required in subsection 1.

[PL 2015, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

3. Exception for farm tractors. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors.

[PL 2015, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 176, §2 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 650, §15 (AMD).

§1906. Clearance lights

1. Requirements for vehicle 7 feet or more in width. A vehicle 7 feet or more in width must have a green or amber light attached to the extreme left of the front, adjusted to indicate the extreme left lateral extension of the vehicle or load and at least one red light on the extreme left lateral extension of the vehicle or load on the rear.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §22 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Requirements for closed body vehicle 8 feet or more in height. A vehicle with a closed body 8 feet or more in height must display 2 green or amber lights attached to the extreme left of the front of its body, one at the top and the other at the bottom. The vehicle must also display at least one red light on the extreme upper left lateral extension of its body.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §22 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

3. Visibility. Body width lights and height lights must be visible not less than 200 feet in the direction towards which the vehicle is proceeding or facing.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §22 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

4. Reflector alternative. In place of body width lights and height lights, a vehicle may be equipped with an adequate reflector conforming as to color and location to the requirements for the light.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §22 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

5. Application. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §22 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q22 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§1907. Rear reflectors

A vehicle must be equipped with at least one adequate reflector securely attached to the rear. The reflector: [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

1. Part of rear light. May be a part of the rear light; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Color. Must be red; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Reflection. Must be designed, located and maintained to reflect at night on an unlighted highway, from at least 200 feet, the lawful undimmed headlights of a vehicle approaching from the rear. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Exceptions. This section does not apply to animal-drawn vehicles or unregistered farm tractors. [PL 2019, c. 170, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 170, §1 (AMD).

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§1909. Registration lamp

A vehicle must have a white light capable of illuminating the rear registration plate so that the characters on the plate are visible for a distance of at least 50 feet. This section does not apply to unregistered farm tractors or vehicles with valid temporary plates issued by licensed car dealers. [PL 2021, c. 216, §45 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 216, §45 (AMD).

§1909-A. Fog lights

1. Fog lights. A motor vehicle may be equipped with 2 fog lights upon the front of the motor vehicle that emit amber or white light as long as the rays from the lights do not shine more than 2 feet above the road at a distance of 30 feet. A fog light mounted higher than the center of the main headlights may not be illuminated while a motor vehicle is being operated on a public way. [PL 2003, c. 340, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 340, §3 (NEW).

§1909-B. Optional auxiliary lighting

1. General restrictions. Except as otherwise provided by section 2054 and any other law or rule, a vehicle may be equipped with or display an auxiliary light, as defined by section 2054, subsection 1, paragraph C, only if it conforms to the requirements of this section. [PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

2. Color. The color of an auxiliary light must be as follows:

A. White or amber if the light is on the front of the vehicle; [PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

B. Amber if the light is on the side of the vehicle; or [PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

C. Amber or red if the light is on the rear of the vehicle. [PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

3. Beam. An auxiliary light must emit a steady beam of light and may not blink, oscillate, rotate or flash.

[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

4. Brightness. An auxiliary light may not emit a beam that is brighter than, has a greater candlepower than or distracts from the visibility of standard lighting equipment required by this Title or by the inspection rules adopted by the Chief of the State Police pursuant to section 1769.

[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

5. Operator visibility. An auxiliary light may not be installed in a manner or on the vehicle so that it distracts or impairs the vision of the operator.

[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

6. Under-vehicle lighting. An auxiliary light is under-vehicle lighting if it is a lighting device or lamp, including, but not limited to, a neon or fluorescent tube, installed under the chassis and it is designed to illuminate and reflect from the surface beneath the vehicle. A vehicle may be equipped with under-vehicle lighting for the purpose of participating in shows, events or other exhibitions, but the lighting may not be used or the vehicle illuminated with under-vehicle lighting on a public way.

[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

7. Violation. A person who operates a motor vehicle equipped with, illuminated by, displaying or using an auxiliary light in violation of this section commits a traffic infraction.

[PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 183, §1 (NEW).

§1909-C. Animal-drawn vehicles

An animal-drawn vehicle operated on a public way must be equipped with the following: [PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (AMD).]

1. Light. During nighttime, an oil lantern or electric lights attached to the left side of the vehicle that displays a red light toward the rear of the vehicle and a white light toward the front of the vehicle; and

[PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (AMD).]

2. Reflective tape.

[PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (RP).]

3. Reflective gear. At all times, one of the following:

A. Grade DOT-C2 white reflective tape as described in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 571.108, in effect on March 26, 2019, applied to the vehicle as follows:

(1) Seventy-two inches of reflective tape applied in segments that outline the rear frame of the vehicle;

(2) Thirty-six inches of reflective tape on each side of the vehicle, applied in segments that outline the frame on each side with at least 2 segments applied to the upper borders; and

(3) Forty-two inches of reflective tape applied in segments that outline the front frame of the vehicle; or [PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (NEW).]

B. A slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle. [PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 170, §2 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 301, §1 (AMD).

§1910. Rules governing lights on vehicles

The Chief of the State Police may adopt rules governing the adjustment, use and operation of lights on vehicles. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§1911. Hydraulic brake fluid

1. Definition. "Hydraulic brake fluid" means the liquid medium through which force is transmitted to the brakes in the hydraulic brake system of a vehicle.

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

2. Requirement. Hydraulic brake fluid must be distributed and serviced with due regard for the safety of the occupants of the vehicle and the public.

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

3. Rules. The Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt rules establishing standards and specifications for hydraulic brake fluid that must correlate with and, so far as practicable, conform to current standards and specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers applicable to the fluid.

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

4. Prohibition. A person may not distribute, have for sale, offer for sale, sell or service a vehicle with hydraulic brake fluid unless that fluid complies with the requirements of this section.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§1912. Mufflers

1. Muffler required. A person may not operate a motor vehicle unless that vehicle is equipped with an adequate muffler properly maintained to prevent excessive or unusual noise. For purposes of this subsection, "excessive or unusual noise" includes motor noise emitted by a motor vehicle that is noticeably louder than similar vehicles in the environment.

[PL 2009, c. 639, §1 (AMD).]

2. Cutouts prohibited. A muffler or exhaust system may not be equipped with a cutout, bypass or similar device.

[PL 2015, c. 206, §8 (AMD).]

3. Amplification prohibited. A person may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that has been modified when the result of that modification is the amplification or increase of noise emitted by the motor above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle.

[PL 2009, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

4. Exhaust system fastened to engine. The entire exhaust system must be complete, without leakage and securely fastened to the engine block and frame.

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

5. Exception; racing meets.

[PL 2015, c. 206, §9 (RP).]

6. Defense for noise violations by motor vehicles. The following are defenses to a violation of subsection 1 or 3.

A. If a muffler or exhaust system of a motor vehicle as defined in section 101, subsection 42, not including a motorcycle, does not emit noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in May 1998, subsections 1 and 3 do not apply. A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of subsection 1 or 3 must provide satisfactory evidence that the muffler or exhaust system does not emit noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in May 1998. Measurements must be made by a participating certified inspection station. [PL 2011, c. 158, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 2013, c. 100, §1 (RP).]
[PL 2013, c. 100, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 140, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q23 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 314, §11 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 639, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 158, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 100, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 206, §§8, 9 (AMD).

§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.

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

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.

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

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.

[PL 2005, c. 577, §26 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 577, §26 (AMD).

§1914. Safety seat belts

1. Safety seat belts required. A person may not buy, sell, lease, trade or transfer from or to a resident at retail a model year 1966 or later motor vehicle, unless that vehicle is equipped with safety seat belts installed for use in the left and right front seats.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§1915. Windows

1. Safety glass. A motor vehicle must be equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in partitions, doors, windows or windshields.

"Safety glass" means a product composed of glass or of other materials, manufactured, fabricated or treated to prevent shattering and flying of broken glass.

The Commissioner of Public Safety may maintain a list of the approved types of glass.

Replacements of glass partitions, doors, windows or windshields must be made with safety glass. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Window repairs. When a window, other than the windshield, is broken, the operator may repair the window by temporarily replacing it with an opaque substance until there is a reasonable opportunity for replacement.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF).

§1916. Reflective and tinted glass

1. Windows to be unobscured. A person may not operate a motor vehicle required to be registered in this State and an inspection mechanic may not issue a certificate of inspection for a motor vehicle, if:

A. A window is composed of, covered by or treated with any material that is reflective; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. The front windshield is composed of, covered by or treated with a material that reduces the light transmittance through the window more than the original installation window or an original replacement window; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A side window or rear window is composed of, covered by or treated with a material that allows a light transmittance of less than 35% net of glass and material; or [PL 2007, c. 186, §1 (AMD).]

D. A front windshield, front door window or window at either end of a rear passenger seat does not contain 2-way glass that provides the occupants with a clear view of the road and a person outside the vehicle with a clear view of the occupants and the interior of the vehicle. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2007, c. 186, §1 (AMD).]

2. Exceptions. The following exceptions apply.

A. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to:

(1) A certificate or other paper required or allowed by law to be displayed;

(2) The label attached to a window showing the price, estimated mileage and other federally mandated information commonly known as the manufacturer's suggested retail price label;

(3) Sun-screening or window-tinting material above the AS-1 line in the top portion of the windshield or, if there is no AS-1 line in the top portion of the windshield, along a 5-inch strip at the top of the windshield. For purposes of this paragraph, "AS-1 line" means the marking that includes the letters "AS," the number "1" and an arrow that is required to be placed on certain safety glazing materials pursuant to 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 571.205 (2006); or

(4) Motor vehicles for which the Chief of the State Police has granted an exception because the health of the owner or a person who usually occupies the vehicle is adversely affected by sunlight. The Chief of the State Police may, upon proper application, provide the owner of a motor vehicle with a certificate of exemption that must be displayed upon the request of a law enforcement officer. [PL 2007, c. 186, §2 (AMD).]

B. The provisions of subsection 1, paragraphs C and D do not apply to side windows behind the operator's seat or the rear window of a motor vehicle, as long as the vehicle is equipped with 2 outside rear view mirrors, one on each side, adjusted so that the operator has a clear view of the highway behind the vehicle. [PL 2009, c. 251, §6 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2007, c. 348, §15 (RP).]
[PL 2009, c. 251, §6 (AMD).]

2-A. Definition.

[PL 2009, c. 251, §7 (RP).]

3. Light transmittance certificate. The owner or operator of a motor vehicle with tinted windows that are not replaced in accordance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 205 or windows covered by or treated with tinting material must acquire a light transmittance certificate and must show the certificate to the inspection mechanic at the time of inspection.

The Chief of the State Police may authorize a person to examine window glazing and tint material to determine compliance with this subsection. A person authorized under this subsection may issue a certificate for a motor vehicle that complies with the light transmittance standards.

Upon request, the Bureau of State Police shall provide light transmittance certificates to a person authorized to issue a certificate under this subsection. Light transmittance certificates provided by the Bureau of State Police in accordance with this subsection remain the property of the State.

A person authorized to issue a certificate under this subsection who is adjudicated of a violation of this section or files an answer of "not contested" to a summons for a violation of this section shall return all unissued light transmittance certificates to the Bureau of State Police within 10 days of adjudication or of filing the answer. The Bureau of State Police may not provide that person with light transmittance certificates for a period of 6 months after the date of adjudication or filing an answer of "not contested." [PL 2007, c. 348, §16 (AMD).]

4. Violations. A person may not:

A. Install a replacement window in or window-tinting material on a motor vehicle that does not meet the standards of subsections 1 and 2; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Fail to issue a certificate as required by subsection 3, after installing for compensation a tinted replacement window or window-tinting material; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. Alter the window-tinting materials after a certificate has been issued pursuant to subsection 3 and then display the certificate as proof that the windows meet the standards of subsection 1 or 2; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. Display or permit to be displayed a light transmittance certificate, knowing the certificate to be fictitious or issued to another motor vehicle or issued without the motor vehicle meeting the standards of subsection 1 or 2; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. Knowingly cause a light transmittance certificate to be issued for a motor vehicle that does not meet the standards of subsection 1 or 2; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. Operate or cause the operation of a motor vehicle that does not meet the requirements of this section; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

G. Fail to return all unissued light transmittance certificates to the Bureau of State Police in accordance with subsection 3. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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

5. Presumption. If the operator of a motor vehicle with a tinted replacement window or window-tinting material installed fails to produce a certificate as required by subsection 3 on the request of a law enforcement officer, it is presumed that the motor vehicle does not meet the requirements of this section.

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

6. Penalty. A person who is adjudicated of a violation of this section commits a traffic infraction that must be punished by a forfeiture of not less than \$100.

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

7. Rules. The Chief of the State Police may adopt rules to implement and administer this section and to collect reasonable fees for that administration.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 129, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 183, §6 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 186, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 348, §§15, 16 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 251, §§6, 7 (AMD).

§1917. Tires and wheels

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Tread depth" means the amount of tread design on the tire. "Tread depth" includes original, retread and recap tread design and, in respect to a special mileage commercial tire, recut, regrooved and siped tread design. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. "Special mileage commercial tire" means a tire manufactured with an extra layer of rubber between the cord body and original tread design, which extra layer is designed for the purpose of recutting or regrooving, and which tire is specifically labelled as a "special mileage commercial tire." [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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

2. Safe tires required. A motor vehicle or tiny home may not be operated on a public way unless it is equipped with tires in safe operating condition. A tire mounted on a motor vehicle or tiny home is not considered to be in safe operating condition unless it meets the visual and tread depth requirements set forth in subsections 3 and 4 and the vehicle is in compliance with the frame height requirements provided in section 1920.

[PL 2019, c. 650, §16 (AMD).]

3. Visual requirements. A tire is not in safe operating condition if that tire has:

A. A fabric break or a cut in excess of one inch in any direction as measured on the outside of the tire and deep enough to reach the body cords; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. A temporary repair by the use of blowout patches or boots; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. A bump, bulge or knot related to separation or partial failure of the tire structure; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

D. A portion of the ply or cord structure exposed; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. Sidewalls damaged to the extent that the body cords are damaged. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

4. Tread depth. A tire is not in safe operating condition if it is worn to the point where less than 2/32 inch of tread design remains at all points at which gauge readings are required. Tread depth must be measured as follows.

A. Tire tread depth must be measured by a tread depth gauge that is calibrated in 1/32 inch. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. Readings must be taken in all major tread grooves and must include at least 2 points not closer than 15 inches. [PL 2007, c. 348, §17 (AMD).]

C. Readings for a tire that has the tread design running across the tire or for a siped tire must be taken at or near the center of the tire at 2 points of the circumference not closer than 15 inches. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]
[PL 2007, c. 348, §17 (AMD).]

5. Exemptions. A farm vehicle used exclusively for agricultural purposes, including, but not limited to, a self-propelled combine, self-propelled corn and hay harvesting machine or tractor used exclusively for agricultural purposes, is exempt from this section.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Wheels.
[PL 2009, c. 251, §9 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 146, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 66, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 348, §17 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 251, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 30, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 650, §16 (AMD).

§1918. Regrooved tires

A person commits a traffic infraction if that person distributes, has for sale, offers for sale, sells or uses on a motor vehicle a pneumatic tire that has been regrooved below the original tread depth, unless that tire was originally manufactured with extra undertread material. [PL 1999, c. 771, Pt. C, §13 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 771, Pt. D, §§1, 2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 771, §C13 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 771, §§D1,2 (AFF).

§1919. Studded tires

1. Prohibited May 1st to October 1st. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, from the first day of May to the first day of October, a person may not operate a vehicle with tires having metal studs, wires, spikes or other metal protruding from the tire tread. Pneumatic tires that feature embedded blocks, studs, flanges, cleats, spikes or other protuberances that are retractable may be used any time of the year, except that the protuberances may not be engaged or extended from the first day of May to the first day of October.

[PL 2007, c. 525, §1 (AMD).]

2. Extension of use period and issuance of permit. Extended use of studded tires may be permitted according to this subsection.

A. A person may use studded tires for periods other than those specified in subsection 1, if the Commissioner of Transportation extends the use period or, in a special case, issues a permit covering stated periods of time for the use of studded tires. The fee for a permit may not be less than \$3 and not more than \$15, as determined by the commissioner. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. A person issued a permit under paragraph A must carry the permit in an easily accessible place in or about the vehicle. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §24 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

3. Application. Subsection 1 does not apply to fire department vehicles or school buses. [PL 2019, c. 31, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §Q24 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 525, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 31, §1 (AMD).

§1920. Vehicle frame height

1. Minimum and maximum frame end heights. A motor vehicle may not be operated on a public way or receive a certificate of inspection with a frame end height of less than 10 inches or with the frame end height lower than the vehicle was originally manufactured if originally manufactured to be less than 10 inches. A motor vehicle may not be operated on a public way or receive a certificate of inspection with a maximum frame end height based on the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating that is greater than:

A. [PL 2005, c. 276, §2 (RP).]

B. For a vehicle of 4,500 pounds and less, 24 inches in the front and 26 inches in the rear; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. For a vehicle of 4,501 pounds to 7,500 pounds, 28 inches in the front and 30 inches in the rear; [PL 2019, c. 335, §2 (AMD).]

D. For a vehicle of 7,501 pounds to 10,000 pounds, 30 inches in the front and 32 inches in the rear; [PL 2019, c. 335, §2 (AMD).]

E. For a vehicle of 10,001 pounds to 11,500 pounds, 31 inches in the front and 33 inches in the rear; and [PL 2019, c. 335, §3 (AMD).]

F. For a vehicle of 11,501 pounds to 13,000 pounds, 32 inches in the front and 34 inches in the rear. [PL 2019, c. 335, §4 (NEW).]

Measurements must be taken from a level surface to the bottom of the frame end. For the purposes of this subsection, "frame end" means the point at which the frame rail terminates at the bumper assembly. [PL 2019, c. 335, §§2-4 (AMD).]

2. Modifications. A vehicle may not be modified to cause, under normal operation, the vehicle body or chassis to come into contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision or cause the wheels to come in contact with the body. The suspension and tire sizes of a vehicle may be modified pursuant to this chapter and rules established by the Chief of the State Police. [PL 2005, c. 276, §2 (AMD).]

3. Suspension. Except as provided in this subsection or in subsection 2, an original suspension system may not be disconnected. This section does not prohibit the installation of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs, or prohibit a person from operating on a public way a motor vehicle with normal wear of the suspension system if normal wear does not affect control of the vehicle.

[PL 2005, c. 276, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 144, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 276, §2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 30, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 335, §§2-4 (AMD).

§1921. Viewing of visual content restricted in vehicles

A person may not operate a motor vehicle in which there is a television viewer, screen or other video device, other than an allowable device, that is receiving or showing video content visible to the operator. For the purposes of this section, "video content" includes, but is not limited to, television broadcasts, recorded video and video streamed through electronic or other means. For purposes of this section, "allowable device" means: [PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (AMD).]

1. Global positioning, navigation or mapping system. A device displaying video content for the purpose of a global positioning, navigation or mapping system;
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

2. Closed-circuit video monitor. A closed-circuit video monitor that is used to assist the operator while backing up or parking;
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

3. Device when vehicle is stationary. A device that is capable of operation only when the vehicle is stationary and is automatically disabled whenever the wheels of the vehicle are in motion;
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

4. Device to enhance operator's view. A device that is used to enhance or supplement the operator's view of the roadway or to assist the operator in object detection; and
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

5. Part of vehicle's instrumentation. A video display unit that is part of the vehicle's instrumentation or is used for the purpose of vehicle control.
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

This section does not apply to the use of a video device in the performance of official duties by a law enforcement officer or the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in section 2054.
[PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 584, §B7 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 176, §3 (AMD).

§1922. Advertisements on motor vehicles

1. Prohibition. Except as provided in this section, an owner or operator may not operate on a public way a motor vehicle to which is affixed an illuminated advertisement.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

2. Display rules. For purposes of vehicle identification, in addition to the provisions of section 1951, a motor truck, truck tractor or semitrailer may display an illuminated sign in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Public Safety according to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
[PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

3. Standards. Among other standards determined by the Commissioner of Public Safety to be necessary to protect the welfare and safety of the general public, an illuminated sign:

A. Must bear the name of the owner of the vehicle, the lessee of the vehicle or the person for which the operator is transporting property or goods; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. May identify the cargo in transit. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

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

4. Location of sign. An illuminated sign may only be displayed as follows:

A. On truck tractors, on the wind deflector on the roof of the truck tractor; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. On a semitrailer, on the front portion of the semitrailer; [PL 2021, c. 368, §1 (AMD).]

C. On a truck, on the front portion of the storage compartment above and behind the cab; and [PL 2021, c. 368, §2 (AMD).]

D. On a delivery vehicle, on the roof of the vehicle as long as the only information on the illuminated sign is the name and telephone number of the company providing the delivery. The sign may be illuminated only when making a delivery, as determined by the Department of Public Safety by rule. The sign may not have words that scroll or change messages while the vehicle is in transit and a vehicle is limited to one sign. The sign must be securely fastened to the vehicle to prevent it from falling off the vehicle. For the purposes of this paragraph, "delivery vehicle" means a motor vehicle used to transport customers or property. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2021, c. 368, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 368, §§1-3 (AMD).]

5. Lights prohibited. An illuminated sign may not be lighted by a flashing, blinking or neon light. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

6. Form, size and light of sign. An illuminated sign must be in a form, size and light so as not to distract or impair the vision of the operator of another motor vehicle.

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

7. Exception. This section does not apply to the illuminated name and telephone number identification affixed to vehicles, including the illuminated name and telephone number identification affixed to the roof, for the conveyance of passengers.

[PL 2021, c. 368, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 368, §§1-4 (AMD).

§1923. Reading while operating a motor vehicle prohibited

An operator may not read printed material including but not limited to, a newspaper, book, brochure or pamphlet, while operating a motor vehicle. Printed material does not include a map or written directions to a specific location. [PL 1999, c. 183, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 183, §7 (NEW).

§1924. Chains on skidders

Chains attached to the tires or wheels of a skidder must be removed prior to operation on a paved way. [PL 1999, c. 183, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 183, §7 (NEW).

§1925. Equipment requirements for low-speed vehicles

1. Equipment required. A low-speed vehicle registered pursuant to section 501, subsection 11 must be equipped with:

- A. Brakes for each wheel; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - B. Headlights that comply with section 1904; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - C. An odometer; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - D. One exterior rearview mirror; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - E. One interior rearview mirror; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - F. A parking brake; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - G. Rear reflectors; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - H. A safety glass windshield; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - I. A speedometer; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - J. Stop lamps; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - K. Rear lights that comply with section 1905; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - L. Seat belts and child restraint systems that comply with section 2081; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - M. Turn signal lamps; [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - N. Windshield wipers; and [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
 - O. A vehicle identification number. [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]
- [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]

2. Working condition. Equipment required in subsection 1 must be in good working condition. [PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §1925. Nitrous oxide system (As enacted by PL 2003, c. 340, §4 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 29-A, SECTION 1926)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 1, §29 (RAL). PL 2003, c. 340, §4 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 397, §9 (NEW).

§1926. Nitrous oxide system

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 29-A, SECTION 1925)

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Fill station" means a place that refills nitrous oxide bottles. [PL 2005, c. 31, §1 (NEW).]
 - B. "Nitrous oxide system" means a device installed in a motor vehicle that allows nitrous oxide to combine with gasoline for the purpose of increasing engine power. [PL 2005, c. 31, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2005, c. 31, §1 (RPR).]

2. Use prohibited. Except as provided in subsection 3, a person may not operate a motor vehicle that is equipped with a nitrous oxide system on a public way. [RR 2003, c. 1, §29 (RAL).]

3. Exceptions. A person may operate a motor vehicle equipped with a nitrous oxide system on a public way if:

A. All canisters of nitrous oxide have been removed from the vehicle; or [RR 2003, c. 1, §29 (RAL).]

B. The motor vehicle is en route to or from a track where the motor vehicle is used for racing, a car show, an off-highway competition or event or a fill station and:

(1) The nitrous oxide system is made inoperative by disconnecting the line feeding nitrous oxide to the engine; or

(2) All containers of nitrous oxide have been removed from the motor vehicle. [PL 2005, c. 31, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2005, c. 31, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 1, §29 (RAL). PL 2005, c. 31, §§1,2 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

TRUCKS

§1951. Name of owner or lessee displayed

A truck tractor owner or operator shall display on both sides of the truck tractor the name of the owner or lessee in letters that meet the standards set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 390.21T, as amended. [PL 2017, c. 165, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 165, §7 (AMD).

§1952. Flares; emergency signals

1. Carry flares. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, a truck or truck tractor with a registration for operation with gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds must be equipped with 2 red flags, 3 flares and 3 red lanterns or red emergency reflectors.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §25 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

1-A. Flares prohibited. A vehicle transporting inflammable liquids or gas in bulk may not carry flares.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §26 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Disabled vehicle. When a truck or truck tractor with a registration for operation with gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds is disabled on a public way, the operator shall, during the time that lights are required to be illuminated, place emergency signals as follows:

A. One flare or lantern or red emergency reflector in the center of the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled motor vehicle not less than 100 feet from the vehicle in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

B. One flare or lantern or red emergency reflector not less than 100 feet from the vehicle in the center of the same lane in the opposite direction; and [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. One flare or lantern or red emergency reflector at the traffic side of the vehicle not closer than 10 feet from the front or rear. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

When lights are not required to be illuminated, red flags must be used, except that no flag is required to be placed at the side of the vehicle.

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

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 452, §§Q25,26 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§1953. Splash guards

1. Required. A truck, truck tractor, trailer and semitrailer must be equipped with suitable guards that will effectively reduce the spray or splash of mud, water or slush caused by the rear wheels.

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

2. Exception. Splash guards are not required for:

A. A truck with a registered gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less; [PL 1995, c. 584, Pt. A, §3 (AMD).]

B. A dump truck:

(1) While being operated on construction or reconstruction projects in a construction area established by the Department of Transportation; and

(2) On a public way between the project and a pit or quarry where materials are being obtained when the pit or quarry is within 7 miles of the construction area; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2017, c. 165, §8 (RP).]

D. A fire department vehicle; [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

E. A motor vehicle equipped with fenders; or [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

F. A truck with a stake body that extends not less than 6 feet beyond the rear axle and that is registered under section 505. [PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 165, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 584, §A3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 165, §8 (AMD).

§1954. Dump body support

1. Equipment. A truck with a dump body must be equipped with a positive means of support, permanently attached and capable of being locked in position to prevent lowering of the body while being maintained, inspected or repaired or while the truck is unattended.

[PL 2003, c. 340, §5 (NEW).]

2. Required. A truck dump body must be either fully lowered, locked by means of equipment required in subsection 1 or physically blocked from lowering while being maintained, inspected or repaired or while the truck is unattended.

[PL 2003, c. 340, §5 (NEW).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 340, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 340, §5 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 3

MOTOR VEHICLE EVENT DATA RECORDERS

§1971. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

1. Event data recorder. "Event data recorder" means a feature that is installed by the manufacturer of a motor vehicle and does one or more of the following for the purpose of capturing data for retrieval after a crash:

A. Records vehicle speed, direction or both; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. Records vehicle location data; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

C. Records vehicle steering performance; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

D. Records vehicle brake performance, including whether brakes were applied before the crash; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

E. Records the driver's seatbelt status; and [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

F. Has the ability to transmit information concerning a crash in which the motor vehicle has been involved to a central communication system when a crash occurs. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

2. Owner. "Owner" means:

A. A person having all the incidents of ownership, including the legal title of the motor vehicle, whether or not the person lends, rents or creates a security interest in the motor vehicle; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person entitled to the possession of the motor vehicle as the purchaser under a security agreement; or [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

C. A person entitled to possession of the motor vehicle as lessee pursuant to a written lease agreement, as long as the agreement at inception is for a period of at least 3 months. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

§1972. Ownership and access to data

1. Ownership; access. Data described in section 1971, subsection 1 that are recorded on an event data recorder may not be downloaded or otherwise retrieved by a person other than the owner of the motor vehicle at the time the data are accessed, except under the following circumstances:

A. The owner of the motor vehicle or the owner's agent or legal representative consents to the retrieval of the information; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. A court of competent jurisdiction in this State orders the production of the data; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

C. For purposes of improving motor vehicle safety, security or traffic management, including medical research on the human body's reaction to motor vehicle crashes, as long as the identity of

the owner or driver is not disclosed in connection with that retrieved data. For the purposes of this paragraph, the disclosure of the vehicle identification number with the last 4 digits deleted does not constitute the disclosure of the identity of the owner or driver; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

D. The data are retrieved by a licensed motor vehicle dealer or by an automotive technician for the purpose of diagnosing, servicing or repairing the motor vehicle; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

E. The data are retrieved for the purpose of determining the need for or facilitating emergency medical response in the event of a motor vehicle crash; [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

F. The data are retrieved by a law enforcement officer acting pursuant to authority recognized under applicable statutory or constitutional law; or [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

G. The data are requested as part of routine civil or criminal discovery. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §34 (AMD).]

2. Release of data prohibited; exceptions. A person, including a service or data processor operating on behalf of such person, authorized to download or otherwise retrieve data from the event data recorder pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph C may not release the data except:

A. For the purpose of motor vehicle safety and medical research communities to advance motor vehicle safety, security or traffic management; or [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

B. To a data processor solely for the purposes permitted by this subsection only if the identity of the owner or driver is not disclosed. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

3. Disclosure by subscription services. If a motor vehicle is equipped with an event data recorder that is capable of recording or transmitting information described in section 1971, subsection 1 and that capability is part of a subscription service, the fact that the information may be recorded or transmitted must be disclosed in the subscription service agreement.

[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

4. Application concerning subscription services. Subsection 1 does not apply to subscription services meeting the requirements of subsection 3.

[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

5. Duty to cooperate. Nothing in this subchapter affects an insured's duty to cooperate as provided in an applicable insurance contract or agreement.

[PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §34 (AMD).

§1973. Disclosure by manufacturer

A manufacturer of a new motor vehicle sold or leased in this State that is equipped with one or more event data recorders, including those known as "sensing and diagnostic modules," shall disclose that fact in the owner's manual for the motor vehicle. [PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 544, §1 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text

is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.