

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

—
S.P. 707 - L.D. 2005

**An Act To Amend the Law Governing Maximum Length Limits for Truck
Tractor Semitrailers**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J, as amended by PL 2005, c. 478, §1, is further amended to read:

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 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 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.