

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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May 10, 1933 (?)

Relative to Truck of Alden Chase of Bryant Pond, Maine.

I understand that the "rear" of a motor truck is "any built in or built on section which is more or less permanently a part of the rear of the body of the truck."

Sections 82, 83, and 84 provide for plates, lights, reflectors or signals at or near the "rear" of motor vehicles as finally constructed for use.

These sections would indicate that plates, lights, reflectors, etc. are not to be placed on axles or parts of the chassis where they are not plainly visible or are an appreciable distance from the "rear" of the motor vehicle. Plates and lights are often so placed that the actual "rear" of the motor vehicle as extended for convenience or through necessity for carrying a greater load, becomes a distinct menace.

When the statute refers to "rear" of a motor vehicle it refers to that extreme extension of the body with which an approaching vehicle might come into contact.

Plates are provided for the "rear" of motor vehicles so that they shall be displayed where they may be readily seen. Lights are provided for the "rear" of motor vehicles to illuminate the places and to designate to motorists approaching from the rear where the utmost extension of a motor vehicle or motor truck is.

Plates placed on or near a rear axle, on the back of a motor truck cab, or in the rear window of a motor truck cab are not placed in compliance with the law. A lamp should be so placed as to illuminate the rear plate during the required hours of lighting.

Many trucks are not equipped so that section 84 is sufficiently complied with. Trucks with protruding bodies or protruding loads fail to provide the required protection for other motorists on the highways.

If the inquirer in this instance believes that certain timbers or planking form the rear portion of his truck body, his plates and rear light or lights should be on that extension at the "rear". If he has an object or objects extending more than five feet beyond the point where his plate and rear light are, he should have a further red light or danger signal to give evidence of the said conditions.

The word axis in the statutes should not be confused with the word axle.

May 10, 1933 (?)

Relative to Truck of Alden Chase of Bryant Pond, Maine.

In this specific case I say, that inasmuch as the tail light and plate are five feet inside the hindmost extremity of the truck all allowances for extension are in the extended body and that any further protrusion would necessitate a warning light or signal as named in section 84 of chapter 29. The motor vehicle is over seven feet in width and a reflector should be placed on the outermost left hand corner of the projected body.