

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 8, 1938

Department of Labor and Industry
Augusta, Maine

Attention of E. K. Sawyer, Inspector

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

In answer to your inquiry relative to the inspection of the lighter, or barge, operated by the firm constructing the Deer Isle Bridge, it is impossible for me to give you a definite opinion owing to the fact that we do not seem to have any information as to the type of boat used.

The Federal statute provides that:

"Federal inspectors of steamboats shall at least once in every year inspect the hull and equipment of every seagoing barge of one hundred gross tons or over, and shall satisfy themselves that such barge is of a structure suitable for the service in which she shall be employed and has suitable accommodations for the crew, and is in a suitable condition to warrant the belief that she may be used in navigation with safety to life."

From all the information I can get it would seem to me that the boat in question does not necessarily come within the foregoing provision of law, but is rather a lighter used within territorial waters for bridge construction purposes, and is not a steam vessel within the provisions of U. S. Statute, March 3, 1905, Ch. 1456, as amended, requiring all steam boilers and their appurtenances in all steam vessels to be inspected once at least in every year, and, hence, such boilers seem to be subject to State of Maine laws and regulations requiring the inspection of all steam boilers.

Very truly yours,

Sanford L. Fogg
Deputy Attorney General

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