

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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May 7, 1964

Steven Shaw, Administrative Asst.

Executive

George C. West, Deputy

Attorney General

**Necessity of Full Inspection of Registered Farm Trucks**

**FACTS:**

Some farmers own some old, battered and generally dilapidated trucks. They are registered as farm trucks under chapter 22, section 19. Apparently a question has arisen as to whether they must have doors, and if they do, must they have glass in the doors.

**QUESTION NO. 1:**

Is it mandatory that a registered farm truck have doors in it?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

**OPINION:**

R. S. 1954, chapter 15, section 13-A, provides in the first sentence:

"The chief of the state police shall require twice each year that every vehicle registered in this state be inspected at an official inspection station, duly appointed and certified as such by the chief of the state police, to determine the proper adjustment and sufficiency of the following required equipment: Brakes, lights, running gear, wheels, tires, horns, glazing, mechanical windshield wipers, rear view mirrors, reflectors, exhaust system and body components." (Emphasis supplied).

This says that "every vehicle registered" must be inspected. A truck registered as a farm truck under chapter 22, section 19, is such a vehicle and hence must be inspected.

Section 13-A further provides:

"No person shall operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles on any highway of this state unless the equipment upon any and every said vehicle is in good working order and adjustment and said vehicle is in such safe mechanical condition as not to endanger the driver or other occupant or any person upon the highway."

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Surely a truck with no doors is not "in such safe mechanical condition as not to endanger the driver or other occupant." A vehicle without doors must be said as a matter of law to be dangerous to the driver or any person occupying the seat with the driver.

Therefore, it must be concluded that registered farm trucks must have properly operating doors.

QUESTION NO. 2:

Must a registered farm truck have glass in its doors?

ANSWER:

Yes.

OPINION:

Chapter 15, section 13-F, provides that "any motor vehicle which is registered in the state" manufactured or assembled after December 31, 1937, must be equipped with "safety glass" whenever glass is used in doors. All replacements shall be made with "safety glass."

Any opaque substance is forbidden in "the front windshield or the window at either end of the driver's seat." Such a substance may be used only "temporarily until a reasonable opportunity is afforded for the replacement." Section 13-F.

ADDENDUM:

The questions, as asked, related to registered farm trucks. However, it should be noted that unregistered farm trucks when operated on the highway under the permit provided by chapter 22, section 96-A, "shall be inspected by an authorized inspection station."

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Deputy Attorney General

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