

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Motor Vehicle Inspection Station Requirements  
29 M.R.S.A.P. 2124

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October 23, 1978

Honorable John L. Martin  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Inspection Station Requirements.

Dear Speaker:

As you requested, I have looked into the question of inspection station qualification requirements with particular regard to the question of:

- 1. Whether inspections must be conducted indoors, and
- 2. Whether an inspection station must have a building of sufficient size to accommodate any vehicle presented for inspection.

In reviewing your request, I have looked at both the law in the area and regulations published by the Department of Public Safety. A copy of those regulations is attached hereto.

The law in question, 29 M.R.S.A. § 2124, specifies, in pertinent part, that:

"No application for a license to operate an inspection station shall be considered unless the garage building to be used as an inspection station shall be of suitable length and width . . . ."

This provision has been construed by the Department of Public Safety to require that inspection stations have a capability to operate 12 months a year and that inspections must be conducted in buildings.

Thus, subsection H-1 of the regulation (page 10) specifies that those who apply for inspection station licenses must be open at least 8 hours of each business day and be able to perform 12 months of the year. Further, subsection I-6 requires that inspection stations:


"Permit inspections to be conducted only on the licensed premises and in the building described in the station license application." (emphasis added)

Thus, the Department does require that inspections be conducted indoors with exceptions for certain special mobile equipment, as that equipment is defined on page 2 of the regulations.

It must be emphasized, however, that a particular garage need not be able to accommodate any and all vehicles in order to qualify as an inspection station for some vehicles. Thus, there are various classes of inspection station licenses, Class A, B and D. All that is required to qualify for any particular class of license is that the building in question be structurally sound and that the doors be of sufficient size to accommodate the class of vehicles described in the inspection station license (sub-§ L-1, page 18).

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

  
DONALD G. ALEXANDER  
Deputy Attorney General

DGA/ec  
Enclosure