

USING MASSACHUSETTS FARM PLATES IN THE STATE OF MAINE

Massachusetts farmers are allowed to travel to Maine using their farm plates. However, you have to abide by the State of Maine's regulations for farm plates. These rules differ from Massachusetts regulations. Basically, a farmer may use a farm plate if the truck is used primarily in conjunction with the operation of the farm. [Primary means the majority of the time.] A farm plate may not be used if the truck is used for retail delivery, timber harvesting, or for hire related work. There is no limit on how far a farm truck may travel based on the registration. There is a restriction on the size of the truck, however. It cannot be registered for more than 69,000 lbs.

In communicating with Lt. Thomas E. Kelly of the Maine State Police, Troop K - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, he stated that "it all comes down to what kind of activity they are conducting with the farm plates. If it's the same kind of activity that we would allow on a Maine farm plate, then the MA farm plate gets reciprocity. Most times, we see Mass Farm plates being used for something other than farm related activities."

The State of Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles has put together a brochure entitled "Commonly Asked Questions from the Agricultural Community Regarding Commercial Vehicle Operation". This brochure is available through our office or online at www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/commercial/farmvehicles.htm.

Maine also has trailer regulations that differ from ours. In Maine, for instance, it is required that all wheels on all axles be equipped with adequate brakes except when the trailer has a gross, or loaded, weight of 3,000 pounds or less, even though the trailer was sold to you without brakes on all axles.

A "Guidelines for Trucks and Trailers" is available through this office or at the Maine Farm Bureau's website at: http://www.maineighbureau.com/legislative_affairs/truck_guidelines.php.