

1917

# State of Maine Rules and Regulations Governing Use and Operation of Head Lights on Motor Vehicles

State of Maine, Public Utilities Commission

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## Recommended Citation

State of Maine, Public Utilities Commission, "State of Maine Rules and Regulations Governing Use and Operation of Head Lights on Motor Vehicles" (1917). *Books and Publications*. 181.  
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*Secretary of*  
State of Maine

*me. Public Utilities*  
*Commission*

## RULES and REGULATIONS

Governing Use and Operation

of

# Head Lights on Motor Vehicles

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Formulated by the Public Utilities  
Commission, as provided by Sec-  
tion 3 of Chapter 272 of the  
Public Laws of 1917, and  
as approved by the  
Governor and  
Council.

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Published under the direction of  
the Secretary of State,  
Augusta, Maine

August 1, 1917.

## HEADLIGHTS ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

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After August 15, 1917, no motor vehicle shall be operated on or along any highway or other way between the hours of one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise unless the headlights on any such motor vehicle are constructed and operated as follows, viz:

(1) No bulb or lamp used in any such headlight shall be of greater candle power than 24 (or equivalent wattage.)

(2) The lens or glass in the front part of any such light, (if the lens be of plain glass) shall be sand blasted or frosted on the inside so that no direct or reflected ray from said light shall be, on a level road and seventy-five (75) feet ahead of any such motor vehicle, more than forty-two (42) inches from the ground. Paint or Bon Ami, sufficient to prevent glare, may be used temporarily.\*

\*NOTE: Experiments have shown that this result may be accomplished by sandblasting or frosting the lens on a level line down to a point one (1) inch below the center of the lamp bulb. No clear glass should be left above this line. Some lamps are hung lower on some cars than on others and care, by experiment should be taken to see that the direct or reflected rays are not higher than the above named forty-two (42) inches.

(3) In case a "Fracto" or similar device is used, sand-blasting or frosting is unnecessary, but great care must be used in focusing the light as improper focusing will throw the rays upward and produce the unlawful glare.

(4) Persons using lenses so constructed that no glaring rays are supposed to be produced (the Warner, Legalight and others being types) are not required to sandblast or frost such lenses; but strict regard must be had to the 24-candle power limit of bulbs as higher candle power produces the dangerous glare from any such lens.

(5) Any light may be "dimmed" in cities and villages where street lights exist and are burning not over five hundred (500) feet apart.

(6) No spotlight shall be used on any motor vehicle except for the purpose of casting a light to the right or the left or the rear of a car and then only where the car is stationary or at slow speed or in reverse. When any motor vehicle has gotten under headway, the spotlight shall be turned entirely out and under no circumstances shall be turned toward any approaching vehicle.\*

\*NOTE: A committee representing the Maine Automobile Association and the Maine Automobile Dealers Association recommends the barring of the use of "spotlights" so-called. As used by many motorists, this light em-

braces all the dangers and annoyances of an unprotected headlight. It has, however its legitimate uses, among which are the searching out of sign boards, the observation on the driving side of the car made to avoid ditches or see where the rear wheels are going while the car is backing. It may also be used to cast a light under the hood in making repairs to or observations of the engine.

Fearing that it may at present be unfair to entirely bar the spotlight, we make for the present the above regulation giving notice that if these lights are improperly used, they will be entirely barred.

(7) To avoid misunderstanding, let it be understood that all these regulations apply to motor cycles.