HOURS OF SERVICE (SIGNALMEN)

It shall be unlawful for any railroad (1) to require or permit a person engaged in installing, repairing or maintaining signal systems, who shall have been continuously on duty for 12 hours, or to continue on duty or to go on duty until he has had at least 10 consecutive hours off duty; or (2) to require or permit the employee to go on duty when he has not had at least 8 consecutive hours off duty during the preceding 24 hours.

If the time on duty is broken or interrupted by any period of time off duty of less than 8 consecutive hours, the employee may be on duty for not more than 12 hours during a 24-hour period, if he has had the required rest before going on duty.

If the employee who is engaged in installing, repairing and maintaining systems in performing other service for the carrier, all such time is counted as time on duty.

"Time on duty" shall commence when an individual reports for duty and terminate when he is finally released from duty, except (1) time spent in travel on returning from a trouble call (whether to the person's residence or to the headquarters) such time shall be considered neither time on duty nor time off duty, but up to 60 minutes of the time on return shall be considered time off duty; (2) if, at the end of the scheduled duty hours, the employee has not completed his trip from the final outlying work site to his headquarters or to his residence, then the time spent in travel outside the scheduled duty hours shall be considered neither time on duty nor time off duty; (3) if an employee is reduced from duty at an outlying work site prior to the end of such scheduled duty hours in order to comply with this law, the period of time required for the trip on the outlying work site to headquarters or to the individual's residence shall be considered neither time on duty nor time off duty; (4) all time spent in transportation on an on-track vehicle shall be considered time off duty; (5) regularly scheduled meal periods and other release periods of 30 minutes or more up to 60 minutes shall be considered time off duty, but shall not break an individual's continuity of service and release periods of more than one hour shall be considered time off duty and shall break an individual's continuity of service.

The employee may be required to remain on duty for a time period not to exceed 4 additional hours in any 24-hour consecutive period whenever an actual emergency exists and work of the employee is related to such emergency. An emergency ceases to exist when the signal systems are restored to service.

49 U.S.C. §§ 21102; 21104-21106; 21303