

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-432 effective 9 months after Oct. 16, 2008, see section 108(g) of Pub. L. 110-432, set out as a note under section 21101 of this title.

**§ 21104. Limitations on duty hours of signal employees**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a railroad carrier and its officers and agents may not require or allow its signal employees to remain or go on duty and a contractor or subcontractor to a railroad carrier and its officers and agents may not require or allow its signal employees to remain or go on duty—

(1) for a period in excess of 12 consecutive hours; or

(2) unless that employee has had at least 10 consecutive hours off duty during the prior 24 hours.

(b) DETERMINING TIME ON DUTY.—In determining under subsection (a) of this section the time a signal employee is on duty or off duty, the following rules apply:

(1) Time on duty begins when the employee reports for duty and ends when the employee is finally released from duty.

(2) Time spent performing any other service for the railroad carrier during a 24-hour period in which the employee is engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining signal systems is time on duty.

(3) Time spent returning from a trouble call, whether the employee goes directly to the employee's residence or by way of the employee's headquarters, is neither time on duty nor time off duty.

(4) If, at the end of scheduled duty hours, an employee has not completed the trip from the final outlying worksite of the duty period to the employee's headquarters or directly to the employee's residence, the time after the scheduled duty hours necessarily spent in completing the trip to the residence or headquarters is neither time on duty nor time off duty.

(5) If an employee is released from duty at an outlying worksite before the end of the employee's scheduled duty hours to comply with this section, the time necessary for the trip from the worksite to the employee's headquarters or directly to the employee's residence is neither time on duty nor time off duty.

(6) Time spent in transportation on an ontrack vehicle, including time referred to in paragraphs (3)–(5) of this subsection, is time on duty.

(7) A regularly scheduled meal period or another release period of at least 30 minutes but not more than one hour is time off duty and does not break the continuity of service of the employee under this section, but a release period of more than one hour is time off duty and does break the continuity of service.

(c) EMERGENCIES.—A signal employee may be allowed to remain or go on duty for not more than 4 additional hours in any period of 24 consecutive hours when an emergency exists and the work of that employee is related to the emergency. In this subsection, an emergency ends when the signal system is restored to service. A signal employee may not be allowed to remain or go on duty under the emergency authority provided under this subsection to conduct routine repairs, routine maintenance, or routine inspection of signal systems.

(d) COMMUNICATION DURING TIME OFF DUTY.—During a signal employee's minimum off-duty period of 10 consecutive hours, as provided under subsection (a), a railroad carrier or a contractor or subcontractor to a railroad carrier, and its officers and agents, shall not communicate with the signal employee by telephone, by pager, or in any other manner that could reasonably be expected to disrupt the employee's rest. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit communication necessary to notify an employee of an emergency situation, as defined by the Secretary.

(e) EXCLUSIVITY.—The hours of service, duty hours, and rest periods of signal employees shall be governed exclusively by this chapter. Signal employees operating motor vehicles shall not be subject to any hours of service rules, duty hours or rest period rules promulgated by any Federal authority, including the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, other than the Federal Railroad Administration.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 889; Pub. L. 110-432, div. A, title I, §108(c), Oct. 16, 2008, 122 Stat. 4862.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
21104(a) .....	45:63a(a) (1st sentence).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, 34 Stat. 1415, §3A(a) (1st sentence), (b); added July 8, 1976, Pub. L. 94-348, §4(d), 90 Stat. 819; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §16(4), 102 Stat. 635.
	45:63a(a) (2d-last sentences).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, 34 Stat. 1415, §3A(a) (2d-last sentences); added Nov. 2, 1978, Pub. L. 95-574, §4(a), 92 Stat. 2459.
21104(b) .....	45:63a(b). 45:63a(c).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, 34 Stat. 1415; §3A(c); added July 8, 1976, Pub. L. 94-348, §4(d), 90 Stat. 819; restated Nov. 2, 1978, Pub. L. 95-574, §4(b), 92 Stat. 2460.
21104(c) .....	45:63a(f).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, 34 Stat. 1415, §3A(f); added July 8, 1976, Pub. L. 94-348, §4(d), 90 Stat. 819.

In this section, the words "signal employee" are substituted for "an individual employed by the railroad who is engaged in installing, repairing or maintaining signal systems" and "an individual described in paragraph (1)" in 45:63a(a), "individual" in 45:63a(b) and (c), and "individual engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining signal systems" in 45:63a(f) because of the definition of "signal employee" in section 21101 of the revised title.

Subsection (a)(1) is substituted for 45:63a(a) (last sentence) for clarity and because of the restatement.

In subsection (a)(2), before clause (A), the words "Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section" are added to alert the reader to the exception restated in subsection (c). The text of 45:63a(a) (2d sentence) is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words before paragraph (1) are added as related to 45:63a(c) and substituted for "In determining for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section"

tion the number of hours an individual is on duty” for clarity. In paragraph (2), the word “actually” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c), the word “actual” is omitted as surplus.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-432, §108(c)(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which limited the amount of time spent on duty by signal employees.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 110-432, §108(c)(2), substituted “duty.” for “duty, except that up to one hour of that time spent returning from the final trouble call of a period of continuous or broken service is time off duty.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-432, §108(c)(3), inserted at end “A signal employee may not be allowed to remain or go on duty under the emergency authority provided under this subsection to conduct routine repairs, routine maintenance, or routine inspection of signal systems.”

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 110-432, §108(c)(4), added subsecs. (d) and (e).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-432 effective 9 months after Oct. 16, 2008, see section 108(g) of Pub. L. 110-432, set out as a note under section 21101 of this title.

**§ 21105. Limitations on duty hours of dispatching service employees**

(a) APPLICATION.—This section applies, rather than section 21103 or 21104 of this title, to a train employee or signal employee during any period of time the employee is performing duties of a dispatching service employee.

(b) GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a dispatching service employee may not be required or allowed to remain or go on duty for more than—

(1) a total of 9 hours during a 24-hour period in a tower, office, station, or place at which at least 2 shifts are employed; or

(2) a total of 12 hours during a 24-hour period in a tower, office, station, or place at which only one shift is employed.

(c) DETERMINING TIME ON DUTY.—Under subsection (b) of this section, time spent performing any other service for the railroad carrier during a 24-hour period in which the employee is on duty in a tower, office, station, or other place is time on duty in that tower, office, station, or place.

(d) EMERGENCIES.—When an emergency exists, a dispatching service employee may be allowed to remain or go on duty for not more than 4 additional hours during a period of 24 consecutive hours for not more than 3 days during a period of 7 consecutive days.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 890.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
21105(b) .....	45:63(a).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, §3, 34 Stat. 1416; May 4, 1916, ch. 109, §1, 39 Stat. 61; Aug. 14, 1957, Pub. L. 85-135, §2, 71 Stat. 352; restated Dec. 26, 1969, Pub. L. 91-169, §1, 83 Stat. 464; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §16(3), 102 Stat. 635.
21105(c) .....	45:63(b).	
21105(d) .....	45:63(c).	

In this section, the words “dispatching service employee” are substituted for “operator, train dispatcher, or other employee who by the use of the telegraph, telephone, radio, or any other electrical or mechanical device dispatches, reports, transmits, receives, or delivers orders pertaining to or affecting train movements” in 45:63(a), “employee . . . on duty in a class of service . . . described in paragraph (1) or (2) of such subsection” in 45:63(b), and “employees named in such subsection” in 45:63(c) because of the definition of “dispatching service employee” in section 21101 of the revised title.

In subsection (a), the words “This section applies, rather than section 21103 or 21104 of this title” are substituted for “The provisions of this section shall not apply” because of the restatement. The words “train employee” are substituted for “employee” in 45:62(d), and the words “signal employee” are substituted for “individual” in 45:63a(e), for consistency in this chapter and because of the definitions of “signal employee” and “train employee” in section 21101 of the revised title. The words “during any period of time the employee is performing duties of a dispatching service employee” are substituted for “during such period of time as the provisions of section 63 of this title apply to his duty and off-duty periods” in 45:62(d) and 63a(e) for clarity.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “a total of” are substituted for “whether consecutive or in the aggregate” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c), the words “a tower, office, station, or other place” are substituted for “a place, described in paragraph (1) or (2) of such subsection” for clarity.

In subsection (d), the words “When an emergency exists” are substituted for “in case of emergency” for consistency in this chapter.

**§ 21106. Limitations on employee sleeping quarters**

(a) IN GENERAL.—A railroad carrier and its officers and agents—

(1) may provide sleeping quarters (including crew quarters, camp or bunk cars, and trailers) for employees, and any individuals employed to maintain the right of way of a railroad carrier, only if the sleeping quarters are clean, safe, and sanitary, give those employees and individuals an opportunity for rest free from the interruptions caused by noise under the control of the carrier, and provide indoor toilet facilities, potable water, and other features to protect the health of employees; and

(2) may not begin, after July 7, 1976, construction or reconstruction of sleeping quarters referred to in clause (1) of this section in an area or in the immediate vicinity of an area, as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation, in which railroad switching or humping operations are performed.

(b) CAMP CARS.—Not later than December 31, 2009, any railroad carrier that uses camp cars shall fully retrofit or replace such cars in compliance with subsection (a).

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
21105(a) .....	45:62(d).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, §2(d), 34 Stat. 1416; restated Dec. 26, 1969, Pub. L. 91-169, §1, 83 Stat. 464.
	45:63a(e).	Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2939, 34 Stat. 1415, §3A(e); added July 8, 1976, Pub. L. 94-348, §4(d), 90 Stat. 819.