

From: Jim Young
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Neal, Gabe (FRA) <gabe.neal@dot.gov>
Subject: Hours Of Service Question For Signal Employees

Mr. Gabe Neal,

I have a question that applies to railroad CCS/ATC, PTC signal employees only. It is the start of my weekend & I had 12 hours off work. Can I work 4 hours of covered service, then be off for 4 hours, & still be able to work 4 more hours? Here is a scenario to illustrate my question: I got off work on Friday at 11pm. I returned to work 12 hours later on Saturday at 11am & worked until 3pm. Now my question is this; can I return to work Saturday at 7pm & work until 11pm? That would be 4 hours working, 4 hours off, then 4 more hours working for a total of 8 hours within a 12 hour period. Can I do that or do I have to have 10 hours off when I clock out at 3pm even though I only worked for 4 hours after having 12 hours off?

Jim Young
Electrician
Union Pacific Railroad

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From Neal, Gabe (FRA)  
to Jim Young, Smith, William (FRA)

Mr Young,

Short answer is Yes. You can work a total of 12 hours within a 24 hour period. (Actually 16 hours in an emergency situation which is defined in the rule). But in normal circumstances 12 hours max.

You can stagger on duty and off duty until you run up against the end of your 24 hour period. At the end of the 24 hour period, regardless of how many hours you have worked (up to 12 max), you have to stop and be off for 10 hours.

Meaning you could start your 24 hour period (after 10 off) at 11 am, work to 3pm (4 hours), go off duty to 7pm, back on duty to 12am (5 hours), off duty until 7am, back on duty to 11 am (4hours). Regardless of how many hours you have worked you must go off duty for 10 hours at the conclusion of your 24 hour period.

I hope this is helpful.

Gabe Neal  
Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division