

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

united transportation union

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
(Former C&NW Railway Co.)

May 20, 2008
(R-81-08)

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Mr. Rene Orosco
Assistant Vice President
Labor Relations
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas Street
STOP 0710
Omaha, NE 68179

Reference: 49 CFR Part 227.109 (hearing testing)

Dear Mr. Orosco:

Under dates of December 21, 2007, and February 25, 2008, you addressed correspondence to this office regarding the establishment of an Audiometric Testing Program under the above regulation. On March 4, 2008, several other Labor Chairmen and I participated in a conference call with you, Mr. Tim McCormick, and various carrier representatives regarding the proposed testing program. The Chairmen directed several questions to you which you were unable to answer at that time.

I am now aware that a hearing test program has been initiated by the carrier. Please address the following questions which were propounded during the March 4th conference call.

Mr. McCormick stated that the carrier would negotiate with the hearing clinics to establish a "walk-in" procedure for the employees to obtain the testing. How do the employees avail themselves of these procedures?

What scheduling procedure should be utilized by employees in pool and unassigned service in order to minimize lost work? Who are the carrier managers designated to coordinate the testing schedules with the employee's work schedules?

If employees are directed to miss work to take the hearing tests, what code should they utilize for the lost time? Should employees claim their mileage expenses on a non-service timeslip, or utilize the expense reimbursement form?

The statute authorizes audiometric testing only. What instructions have been issued to medical facilities and personnel limiting the testing procedures to hearing tests only?

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If employees are unable to schedule the testing session, including transport time, eight (8) hours or more prior or subsequent to performing covered service or limbo activity, are the proper hours-of-service reporting forms available? Have instructions been issued to the employees detailing the proper FRA reporting procedures?

Thank you for your prompt response to these questions, which will facilitate the orderly implementation of the audiometric testing program.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Reedy
General Chairman, G.C.A.

MJR:jg

cc: UTU General Chairmen