

Railroad Retirement Board

§ 302.5

§ 302.3 Qualifying conditions.

(a) *Basic requirements.* To qualify for benefits with respect to a benefit year, an employee:

(1) Must have earned compensation in an amount equal to at least 2.5 times the amount of the monthly compensation base during his or her base year; and

(2) If such employee has earned no compensation prior to such base year, he or she must have earned compensation in at least five months during his or her base year.

(b) *Deemed service months disregarded.* For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, service months deemed under §210.3 of this chapter shall be disregarded.

§ 302.4 Nonqualifying earnings or payments.

The following types of earnings or payments do not count as compensation for the purpose of determining whether an employee has satisfied the base year qualifying conditions:

(a) Compensation earned as an employee representative, as defined in part 205 of this chapter, or as an employee of a local lodge or division of a railway labor organization;

(b) Tips;

(c) Payments under nongovernmental plans for unemployment, maternity or sickness insurance;

(d) Personal injury settlements or judgments, unless a portion thereof represents pay for time lost;

(e) Wages from employment that is subject to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act;

(f) Earnings from self-employment or investments;

(g) Pay for military service;

(h) Remuneration for service which is performed by a nonresident alien individual for the period he or she is temporarily present in the United States as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (F) or (J) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and which is performed to carry out the purpose specified in subparagraph (F) or (J), as the case may be; and

(i) Any payment that is not subject to contributions under section 8 of the

Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

[56 FR 6966, Feb. 21, 1991; 56 FR 10302, Mar. 11, 1991]

§ 302.5 Accelerated benefit year.

(a) *Eligibility conditions.* An employee who is not a qualified employee with respect to the benefit year in effect at the time of his or her application for benefits may be eligible for an "accelerated" benefit year if he or she meets all of the following conditions.

(1) The employee has 10 or more years of service, as defined in part 210 of this chapter, prior to the beginning of his or her current period of unemployment or sickness;

(2) The employee has satisfied the qualifying conditions as defined in §302.3 of this part with respect to the next succeeding benefit year;

(3) The employee's current period of unemployment or sickness includes at least 14 consecutive days of unemployment or 14 consecutive days of sickness; and

(4)(i) If the applicant is claiming unemployment benefits, he or she did not voluntarily leave work without good cause or did not voluntarily retire, or

(ii) If the applicant is claiming sickness benefits, he or she has not attained age 65 or has not voluntarily retired.

(b) *Beginning date of benefit year.* An accelerated benefit year begins on the first day of the month during which the employee's period of 14 consecutive days of unemployment or 14 consecutive days of sickness begins. Thus, for example, if an eligible employee has 14 consecutive days of unemployment from May 29–June 11, his or her benefit year beginning date is May 1, that is, he or she does not have to wait until July 1 to begin receiving benefits. If such employee also had a claim for the period May 15 to May 28, such claim may then be compensable or may serve as the waiting period even though the claim did not consist of 14 days of unemployment. His or her benefit year ends June 30 of the following year.

(c) *Effect of attaining age 65.* If a benefit year begins early for the purpose of paying sickness benefits and the employee attains age 65 before July 1 of