

§ 216.31

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§ 216.31 Who is eligible for an age annuity.

The Railroad Retirement Act provides annuities based on the employee's age for employees who have been credited with at least 10 years of railroad service.

(a) *Annuities based on 10 years of service.* An employee with 10 years of railroad service but less than 30 years of service is eligible for an annuity if he or she:

(1) Has attained retirement age; or
(2) Has attained age 62 (the annuity cannot begin prior to the first full month during which the employee is age 62) but is less than retirement age. All components of the annuity are reduced for each month the employee is under retirement age when the annuity begins.

(b) *Annuities based on 30 years of service.* An employee who has been credited with 30 years of railroad service is eligible for an annuity at age 60 (the annuity cannot begin prior to the first full month the employee is age 60). The Tier I component of the annuity is reduced if the employee meets the following conditions:

(1) The employee annuity begins before the month in which the employee is age 62; and either
(2) He or she had not attained age 60, prior to July 1, 1984; or
(3) He or she had not completed 30 years of railroad service prior to July 1, 1984.

(c) *Change from employee disability to age annuity.* A disability annuity paid to an employee through the end of the month before the month in which the employee attains retirement age is converted to an age annuity beginning with the month in which he or she attains retirement age.

§ 216.32 Who is eligible for a disability annuity.

The Railroad Retirement Act provides two types of disability annuities for employees who have been credited with at least 10 years of railroad service. An employee may receive an annuity if his or her disability prevents work in his or her regular railroad occupation. An employee who cannot be considered for a disability based on ability to work in his or her regular

railroad occupation may receive an annuity if his or her disability prevents work in any regular employment.

(a) *Disability for work in regular railroad occupation.* An employee disabled for work in his or her regular occupation, as defined in part 220 of this chapter, is eligible for a disability annuity if he or she:

(1) Has not attained retirement age; and
(2) Has a current connection with the railroad industry; and has either:
(3) Completed 20 years of service; or
(4) Completed 10 years of service and is at least 60 years old.

(b) *Disabled for work in any regular employment.* An employee disabled for work in any regular employment, as defined in part 220 of this chapter, is eligible for a disability annuity if he or she:

(1) Is under retirement age; and
(2) Has completed 10 years of service.

§ 216.33 What is required for payment of an age or disability annuity.

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, an employee may be required to meet other conditions before payment of his or her annuity may begin.

(a) To receive payment of an employee annuity based on age, an eligible employee must:

(1) Apply to be entitled to an annuity; and
(2) Give up the right to return to service with his or her last railroad employer.

(b) If a disability annuity is converted to an age annuity when the annuitant attains retirement age, the age annuity cannot be paid until the employee gives up the right to return to work as described in subpart C of this part. The employee may authorize the Board to relinquish any such right on his or her behalf at the time when he or she applies for the disability annuity.

(c) To receive payment of an employee annuity based on disability, and eligible employee must apply to be entitled to an annuity.

(d) When requested, the employee must submit evidence to support his or

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her application, such as proof of age or evidence of disability.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3220-0002)

Subpart E—Supplemental Annuity

§ 216.40 General.

An employee with a current connection with the railroad industry at the time of retirement may qualify for a supplemental annuity in addition to the regular employee annuity. Supplemental annuities are paid from a separate account funded by employer taxes in addition to those assessed for regular annuities. The Board reduces a supplemental annuity if the employee receives a private pension based on contributions from a railroad employer.

§ 216.41 Who is entitled to a supplemental annuity.

An employee is entitled to a supplemental annuity if he or she:

(a) Has been credited with railroad service in at least one month before October 1981;

(b) Is entitled to the payment of an employee annuity awarded after June 30, 1966;

(c) Has a current connection with the railroad industry when the employee annuity begins;

(d) Has given up the right to return to work as shown in subpart C of this part; and either

(e) Is age 65 or older and has completed 25 years of service; or

(f) Is age 60 or older and under age 65, has completed 30 years of service, and is awarded an annuity on or after July 1, 1974.

§ 216.42 How a private railroad pension affects a supplemental annuity.

(a) *What is a private railroad pension.* The Board determines whether a pension established by a railroad employer is a private pension that will cause a reduction in the employee's supplemental annuity. A private pension for purposes of this subpart is a plan that:

(1) Is a written plan or arrangement which is communicated to the employees to whom it applies;

(2) Is established and maintained by an employer for a defined group of employees; and

(3) Provides for the payment of definitely determinable benefits to employees over a period of years, usually for life, after retirement or disability. Such a plan is sometimes referred to as a defined benefit plan.

(b) *Defined contribution plan.* A plan under which the employer is obligated to make fixed contributions to the plan regardless of profits (sometimes known as a money purchase plan) is a private pension plan. A plan under which the employer's contributions are discretionary is not a private pension plan under this section.

(c) *Other than retirement benefits.* A plan which provides benefits not customarily considered retirement benefits (such as unemployment benefits, sickness or hospitalization benefits) is not a private pension plan under this section.

(d) *Effective date of private railroad pension for supplemental annuity purposes.* A private pension reduces a supplemental annuity payment effective on the first day of the month after the month the Board determines that it is a private pension as defined in paragraph (a) of this section.

(e) *Effect of private railroad pension.* A supplemental annuity is reduced by the amount of any private pension the employee is receiving which is attributable to an employer's contributions, less any amount by which the private pension is reduced because of the supplemental annuity. The supplemental annuity is not reduced for the amount of a private pension attributable to the employee's contributions. The Board will determine the amount of a private pension for any month which is attributable to the employee's contributions.

§ 216.43 Effect of a supplemental annuity on other benefits.

(a) *Employee annuity.* A supplemental annuity that begins after December 31, 1974, does not affect the payment of a regular employee annuity. A supplemental annuity beginning prior to 1975 causes a reduction in the employee annuity as provided by section 3(j) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937.