

Railroad Retirement Board

§ 226.30

1981. The percentage increase for annuities that begin June 1, 1981, or later is 81 percent.

§ 226.14 Employee regular annuity rate.

The regular annuity rate payable to the employee is the total of the employee tier I, tier II, and vested dual benefit amounts, from §§ 226.10–226.12.

§ 226.15 Deductions from employee regular annuity rate.

The employee annuity as computed under this subpart may be reduced by premiums required for supplemental medicare coverage, income tax withholding, recovery of debts due the Federal government, garnishment pursuant to part 350 of the chapter and property awards as provided for in part 295 of this chapter.

§ 226.16 Supplemental annuity.

A supplemental annuity is payable in addition to tiers I and II and the vested dual benefit to an employee who meets the requirements of § 216.41 of this chapter. The supplemental annuity is equal to \$23 plus \$4 for each full year of service, over 25 years of service, up to a maximum of \$43. The supplemental annuity may be reduced by the railroad retirement family maximum as shown in §§ 226.50–226.52 of this part, or for the receipt of a private pension benefit as explained in part 227 of this chapter.

Subpart C—Computing a Spouse or Divorced Spouse Annuity

§ 226.30 Spouse or divorced spouse tier I.

(a) *General.* The tier I of a spouse or divorced spouse annuity is an amount similar to the social security benefit the spouse or divorced spouse would receive based on the employee's combined railroad and social security earnings. In the case of an employee who retires before age 62 with 30 years of service, the spouse tier I is simply 50% of the employee tier I until the first month throughout which both the employee and spouse are age 62 at which time the tier I is an amount similar to the social security benefit on the employee's combined railroad and social security earnings.

(b) *Reduction for other disability benefits.* The spouse or divorced spouse tier I may be adjusted for other disability benefits received by a disabled employee, as shown in §§ 226.70–226.74 of this part.

(c) *Reduction for government pension.* The amount in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section is reduced (but not below zero) by the amount of any government pension payable on the spouse's or divorced spouse's earnings record, as described in § 226.31 of this part.

(d) *Rounding.* The last tier I rate from paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this section, if not a multiple of \$1, is rounded to the next lower multiple of \$1. However, in cases in which the spouse is in receipt of an age reduced 60/30 annuity or in which the employee with 30 years of service began a disability annuity July 1, 1984, or later, the spouse tier I is not rounded until all reductions have been made. See § 226.10(a).

(e) *Age reduction.* If the spouse or divorced spouse is entitled to a reduced age annuity (see §§ 216.51 and 216.52 of this chapter), the rounded tier I rate from paragraph (d) of this section is multiplied by a fraction for each month the spouse or divorced spouse is under retirement age on the date the annuity begins. The result is subtracted from the rate from paragraph (d) of this section. At present the fraction is 25/36 of 1% (or 1/144). In the case of an employee with 30 years of service who is awarded a disability annuity on July 1, 1984, or later, where the spouse does not have a child of the employee under age 18 in care, the spouse tier I is reduced for each month the spouse is under retirement age on the date the spouse annuity begins. If the spouse is age 60 or 61, he or she is deemed to be age 62 for purposes of the age reduction. The age reduction is applied before reduction for a government pension.

(f) *Reduction for social security benefit.* The previous tier I rate, from paragraph (d) or (e) of this section, is reduced by the amount of any monthly benefit payable to the spouse or divorced spouse under title II of the Social Security Act. The social security benefit used to reduce tier I may be an age or disability benefit on the spouse's

§ 226.31

20 CFR Ch. II (4-1-08 Edition)

or divorced spouse's own earnings record, a benefit based on the earnings record of another person, or the total of two types of benefits. The result cannot be less than zero.

(g) *Reduction for employee annuity.* If the spouse or divorced spouse is entitled to an employee annuity on his or her own wage record, the spouse or divorced spouse tier I is reduced for the spouse's own employee annuity as follows:

(1) *Spouse.* If either the employee or the spouse had some railroad service before 1975, the previous tier I rate from paragraphs (d) through (f) of this section, whichever applies, is reduced (but not below zero) by the spouse's own employee tier I rate, as computed under § 226.10 of this part. If both the employee and spouse began railroad service after 1974, the spouse's total annuity rate, as shown in § 226.33, is reduced (but not below zero) by the spouse's own employee total annuity rate, as shown in § 226.14. These reductions are effective from the later of the date the employee or spouse annuity begins.

(2) *Divorced spouse.* The previous tier I rate from paragraphs (d) through (f) of this section, whichever applies, is reduced (but not below zero) by the divorced spouse's own employee total annuity rate as shown in § 226.14.

Example: The computation of the spouse tier I may be illustrated as follows: A railroad employee's wife who was born on September 16, 1920, becomes entitled to a spouse annuity on October 1, 1982. She is also entitled to a social security benefit of \$190 a month effective October 1, 1982. Her husband's employee tier I PIA is \$712.60. The spouse tier I is \$356.30 (50 percent of \$712.60). This is rounded down to \$356. Since she is 35 months under age 65, the present retirement age when the annuity begins, \$356 is multiplied by 35/144, to produce an age reduction of \$86.53 and a tier I rate after age reduction of \$269.47. Her final tier I rate effective October 1, 1982, after reduction for social security benefits, is \$79.47 (\$269.47 - \$190.00).

§ 226.31 Reduction for public pension.

(a) The tier I annuity component of a spouse/divorced spouse annuity, as described in the preceding sections of this part, is reduced if the spouse/divorced spouse is in receipt of a public pension.

(b) *When reduction is required.* Unless the spouse or divorced spouse annuity meets one of the exceptions in paragraph (d) of this section, the tier I annuity component is reduced each month the annuitant is receiving a monthly pension from a Federal, state, or local government agency (government pension), but excluding a pension paid by a government of a foreign country, for which he or she was employed in work not covered by social security on the last day of such employment. For purposes of this section, Federal government employees are not considered to be covered by social security if they are covered for Medicare but are not otherwise covered by social security.

(c) *Payment in a lump sum.* If the government pension is not paid monthly or is paid in a lump-sum payment, the Board will determine how much the pension would be if it were paid monthly and then reduce the monthly railroad retirement annuity accordingly. The number of years covered by a lump-sum payment and thus the period when the annuity will be reduced, will generally be clear from the pension plan. If one of the alternatives to a lump-sum payment is a life annuity, and the amount of the monthly benefit for the life annuity can be determined, the reduction will be based on that monthly benefit amount. Where the period or the equivalent monthly pension benefit is not clear, it may be necessary for the Board to determine the reduction period on an individual basis.

(d) *Exceptions.* The reduction does not apply:

(1) If the annuitant is receiving a government pension based on employment for an interstate instrumentality; or

(2) If the annuitant receives or is eligible to receive a government pension for one or more months in the period December 1977 through November 1982 and he or she meets the requirements for social security benefits that were applied in January 1977 (even though he or she did not actually claim such benefits nor become entitled to such benefits until a later month). The January 1977 requirements are, for a man, a one-half support test (see paragraph (e) of this section), and, for a woman