



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: February 3, 2004*

Reply to Attn of: OP-04-12

Subject: Single Person Crews

Original Signed By:

From: Edward W. Pritchard*

Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators

As previously announced, FRA granted AAR's petition to stay indefinitely, the effectiveness of the single member crew provisions of the utility employee rule (new Section 218.24). Effective date for the rule was originally May 15, 1995 (see 60 FR 11047, Wednesday, March 1, 1995). During the stay, we will be working in a consultive manner with the industry to develop consensus on a solution.

In the interim, until a revised rule is issued, our policy regarding single person crews (i.e., locomotive engineers working alone, such as in hostler or helper service) is as follows:

While on, under or between equipment, no blue signal protection will be required for single person crews provided that: (1) the employee performs only those duties listed in Section 218.22 (c) (5) on the equipment they are called to operate; and, (2) the railroad has in effect operating rules and procedures that provide for locomotive securement against movement.

Please ensure this information is disseminated to field inspectors.

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(*Original issue date was June 6, 1995, and signed by Edward R. English, Director, Office of Safety Enforcement)