



Module 15

Ferries



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Things to think about ...

Some commercial vehicle drivers travel by ferry to reach their destination. Drivers can accumulate a lot of on-duty time waiting at the terminal to board the ferry as well as off-duty time during the ferry crossing.

The Federal *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations* give drivers who travel 5 hours or more by ferry an off-duty exemption.

How is the ferry duration time calculated?

What are the requirements when traveling by ferry?

What will I learn in this module?

- Requirements when traveling by ferry

How is the ferry duration time calculated?



Legislative References:

- *Federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (SOR/2005-313) Section 17 Ferries*

When a commercial vehicle travels by ferry, the driver can accumulate a lot of off-duty time during the ferry crossing. In order to count the time on a ferry as off-duty time, the driver must be completely relieved of all duty, responsibility and obligation for the care and custody of the vehicle, its accessories, and any passengers or cargo it may be carrying. In other words, the driver must have the freedom to leave the vehicle to do something else on the ferry. This relief must also be consistent with the regulations of the ferry operator and Canadian Coast Guard.

In order to qualify for the off-duty time exemption, the driver must travel more than 5 consecutive hours by ferry. To calculate ferry duration time, a driver needs to use the actual scheduled departure and arrival times. In other words, ferry duration time is actual “propeller-churning” time. The “check-in and check-out” times are not applicable (i.e., waiting time at the terminal and off-loading time are not included in this off-duty time exemption).

If ferry duration time is less than 5 hours, a driver records the time spent on the ferry based on what the driver is actually doing:

- If the driver is working (selling tickets), the driver is on-duty
- If the driver is eating lunch, the driver is off-duty



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What are the requirements when traveling by ferry?



Legislative References:

- *Federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (SOR/2005-313) Section 1 Interpretation*
- *Federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (SOR/2005-313) Section 17 Ferries*

A driver who travels more than 5 consecutive hours by ferry does not have to take the 8 consecutive hours of core off-duty time. In order to be eligible for this off-duty exemption, the driver must meet the following conditions:

- 1) Time spent in a sleeper berth while waiting at the ferry terminal
 +
 Time spent in rest accommodations on the ferry
 +
 Time spent at a rest stop that is located no more than 25 kilometers from the ferry disembarkation point (off-loading point)
 =
 8 hours minimum
- 2) Driver records the hours listed in Condition 1) in the daily log as off-duty time spent in a sleeper berth. However, a driver must record any time spent driving from the disembarkation point to the rest stop as on-duty driving time.
- 3) Driver keeps receipts for the ferry crossing and rest accommodation fees. These receipts are supporting documents. A supporting document is a document or information recorded or stored by any means that is used by a director or inspector to determine if the driver has followed the Regulations. If there are no rest accommodations on the ferry, a driver is not eligible for this exemption (i.e., the driver cannot use a boarding pass as a receipt for rest accommodations).
- 4) Information shown on supporting documents must be consistent with the daily log entries.

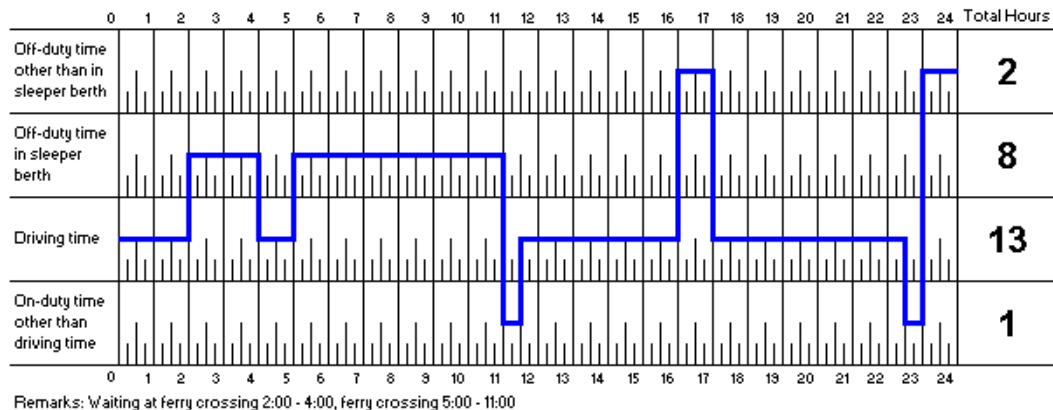


Example:

A driver performs the following activities in a day:

Time	Activity	Duty Status
2 hours	Drive to ferry terminal	Driving time
2 hours	Rest in sleeper berth while waiting at ferry terminal	Off-duty time spent in a sleeper berth
1 hour	Drive onto ferry (keep receipt as supporting document)	Driving time
6 hours	Sleep in ferry accommodations (keep receipt as supporting document)	Off-duty time spent in a sleeper berth
0.5 hour	Pre-trip inspection	On-duty, other than driving time
4.5 hours	Drive off ferry and towards destination	Driving time
1 hour	Eat supper	Off-duty time other than time spent in a sleeper berth
5.5 hours	Drive	Driving time
0.5 hour	Supervise unloading of vehicle, conduct post-trip inspection and complete paperwork	On-duty, other than driving time
1 hour	Sleep (start of 8 consecutive hours)	Off-duty time other than time spent in a sleeper berth

The driver records the activities on the daily grid as follows:



There are no violations for the day.



Module Self-Check Questions

If you can answer the following questions, you are ready to move to the next module. If you can't answer the questions, please review the module again before continuing.

- 1) Describe how ferry duration time is calculated.

- 2) Describe the off-duty exemption when traveling by ferry.

- 3) List the four conditions that a driver must meet to be eligible for the off-duty exemption.



Answers to Module Self-Check Questions

- 1) Describe how ferry duration time is calculated.
 - Actual scheduled departure and arrival times (i.e., actual “propeller-churning” time)
 - “Check-in and check-out” times are not applicable (i.e., waiting time at the terminal and off-loading time are not included)
- 2) Describe the off-duty exemption when traveling by ferry.
 - Driver who travels more than 5 consecutive hours by ferry does not have to take the 8 consecutive hours of core off-duty time
 - Driver must meet 4 conditions
- 3) List the four conditions that a driver must meet to be eligible for the off-duty exemption.
 - Time spent in a sleeper berth while waiting at the ferry terminal
+
Time spent in rest accommodations on the ferry
+
Time spent at a rest stop that is located no more than 25 kilometers from the ferry disembarkation point (off-loading point)
=
8 hours minimum
 - Driver records the hours listed in first condition in the daily log as off-duty time spent in a sleeper berth
 - Driver keeps receipts for the ferry crossing and rest accommodation fees
 - Information shown on supporting documents are consistent with daily log entries



Notes: