



LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER

Job Summary

A locomotive engineer operates diesel-electric locomotives; interprets general orders, train signals, and railroad rules and regulations to transport freight in a safe and satisfactory manner.

Major Responsibilities

Locomotive engineers perform standard procedures before locomotive's departure, including, examining bulletin board for special instructions, reviewing train consist and tonnage. Inspect locomotive for operational readiness by making checks and tests, such as air brake tests, as required by federal law and company rules. Operates locomotive and train in an efficient manner following signals, orders, safety regulations and time schedule. Communicates signals, warnings and additional information – often using a radio – to other train personnel in a safe and satisfactory manner. Observes track to detect obstructions and to anticipate operating problems as required by federal or company rules. Remains prepared for and constantly alert to unusual conditions or circumstances. Identifies and records locomotive defects and run irregularities following federal and company rules, notifying appropriate party. Performs other essential and nonessential functions as assigned.

Qualifications:

Railroad brakeman experience and Locomotive Engineer certification is required. Must possess a minimum education of a high school diploma or GED, pass written pre-employment tests and possess current and valid driver's license.

Job Requirements

Mental: A locomotive engineer is required to follow company safety procedures, use common sense, and maintain an overall level of safety awareness when operating in the work environment. A locomotive engineer must make effective decisions when in unfamiliar locations or emergency situations, and must be able to understand and provide written and oral communications such as instructions, explanations, revisions to initial assignments, etc. An engineer must be able to: recognize sounds and changes in sounds (e.g., whistles, bells, equipment malfunction); recognize and distinguish colors displayed by signs, signals, etc.; judge speed/distance of moving objects; understand visual displays such as signals; recall information (e.g., signal and track locations, configurations, etc.); and judge the condition of objects/parts for wear and/or defects.

Physical: An engineer should possess good climbing and balancing skills, good eye-hand coordination, and the ability to grasp. Engineers frequently lift/carry up to 50 pounds and are occasionally required to lift/carry up to 100 pounds. Distant visual acuity must be at least 20/40 in each eye with or without glasses. An engineer must also have the ability to distinguish color with no more than four (4) errors in a sixteen- (16) plate (isochromatic test). An average hearing threshold (in the better ear) of 40 decibels or less at 500 HZ, 1000 HZ and 2000 HZ, aided or unaided, is required.

Other Relevant Information

Engineers are covered by the Federal Hours of Service Law and are subject to random drug and alcohol testing. Engineers are required to follow standard safety procedures, to be alert, and to take necessary precautions (e.g., wearing/using protective clothing and equipment) to avoid possible injuries or health problems. Engineers are frequently required to work outdoors in all kinds of weather, to work on or around moving equipment and hazardous materials transported by the railroad, to walk on uneven ground, to mount and dismount moving equipment, and to work for prolonged periods of time up to 12 hours. The work schedule of an engineer is generally irregular and often requires working 7 days per week, including day and night hours up to 12 hours per shift, weekends, and holidays.