

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER JOB DESCRIPTION BRIEF

JOB PURPOSE

The objectives of the job are to (1) operate locomotive units using train handling skills that assure on-time/on-plan movement, fuel efficiency, rule compliance, derailment prevention, and safety; (2) conduct pre-run locomotive unit inspections and tests; (3) observe and monitor conditions of train and railroad right-of-way; (4) interpret and assure compliance with signals; (5) communicate train data and information; (6) work effectively with other transportation personnel; (7) practice safe work habits; and (8) assure compliance with Union Pacific Railroad, Federal and industry rules, general orders, and instructions.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

The statements in this section are essential job functions that an employee must be able to perform with or without reasonable accommodation in order to achieve the objectives of the job. In this regard, please note that the description is generic and represents a composite across likely position assignments. There may be position specific differences related to geography, available technology, work force levels, incumbent seniority level, etc. which should be clarified in individual situations.

OPERATE LOCOMOTIVE UNITS USING TRAIN HANDLING SKILLS THAT ASSURE ON-TIME/ON-PLAN MOVEMENT, FUEL EFFICIENCY, RULE COMPLIANCE, DERAILMENT PREVENTION, AND SAFETY. Start and stop engines by operating engine switches, valves, and circuit breakers in proper sequence. Control speed and slack of train by use of throttle, dynamic braking, or air brakes. Initiate or modify train handling techniques (i.e. acceleration on braking operations) as indicated by condition of train, territory, weather, or other changing factors. Perform hostler function by operating locomotives between various shop, service and switching areas. Operate or align track switches and derails as necessary. Assist in moving replacement knuckle.

CONDUCT LOCOMOTIVE UNIT INSPECTIONS AND TESTS. Inspect locomotive(s) before run to verify quantity of fuel, sand, water, flagging equipment and supplies. Inspect locomotive during or after run to detect damaged or defective equipment. Document inspections as required. Perform air brake tests as required by FRA/DOT regulations.

OBSERVE AND MONITOR CONDITIONS OF TRAIN AND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY. Determine speed of moving train. Observe distances and speeds of vehicles approaching grade crossings. Monitor positions of switches aligned by crew and monitor track to detect obstructions or weather-related problems.

COMMUNICATE TRAIN DATA AND INFORMATION. Review train consist specifying train makeup. Review and act upon track warrants and bulletins, instructions and inquiries received from conductors and dispatchers. Transmit information concerning stops, delays and oncoming trains. Transmit and retrieve information via use of on board computer terminals. Provide advisory/alert information regarding suspicious or criminal activity using telephones and radios.

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INTERPRET AND TRANSMIT SIGNALS. Communicate wayside signals in a clear manner. Interpret and respond to wayside signals (color light signals, position signals, torpedoes, flags, and hot box detectors). Monitor for proper display signals and lights used in protection. Interpret cab signals and indicators (air brake gauges, load, and speed indicators).

PRACTICE SAFE WORK HABITS. Understand and follow Union Pacific Railroad and Federal safety rules, practices and procedures. Wear prescribed safety apparel and hearing protection. Take appropriate action when conditions threaten safety of self or coworkers. Ensure equipment and work area are in the safe operating condition before starting work. Perform and participate in job briefings.

ATTENDANCE. Attendance in compliance with the applicable attendance policy is an essential function of this position.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

The following skills and abilities are judged to be critical for performing the essential job functions in a safe and effective manner. Job candidates and employees may satisfy these requirements with or without reasonable accommodations.

READ AND UNDERSTAND JOB INFORMATION WRITTEN IN ENGLISH. Must be able to read and understand posted bulletins, regulations, rules books, timetables, train warrants and bulletins, switch lists, etc.

COMPUTER LITERACY. Must be able to operate a computer keyboard terminal to input and retrieve information from transportation database.

COMMUNICATE WITH COWORKERS. Must be able to provide advisory/alert information, coordinate work and describe nature of technical defects to coworkers. Typically involves verbal job briefings and discussions. Use cell phones and radios. Must be able to communicate in English in a clear, concise manner.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION. Must be able to accurately transcribe numbers, letters, or words onto forms, such as inspection reports and time slips.

LEARNING AND RECALL. Must be able to learn, recall and apply information and operating procedures relevant to job functions (e.g., knowledge of territory).

PROBLEM ANALYSIS. Must be able to identify relevant situation characteristics, identify operational problems, and formulate corrective actions (e.g. when to initiate or modify train handling techniques).

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES. Must be able to effectively operate locomotive units. Must be able to use a computer keyboard to retrieve information via computer. Requires ability to understand and apply safety and operating rules and guidelines. Must be able to understand and adapt to changing technologies.

TEAMWORK. Must be able to work in a team environment which requires cooperating with others, offering help when needed, and maintaining positive working relationships.

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VISION AND HEARING. Must be able to detect and interpret visual stimuli (e.g., wayside and hand signals, printed materials) at near and far distances. Must have color vision sufficient to discriminate colors in signal displays. Must have depth perception sufficient to judge speed and distance of moving objects. Must have night vision. Must be able to recognize sounds and changes in sounds (e.g., whistles). Color vision meeting FRA standards required.

PERFORM PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES. Must be able to exert physical strength sufficient to carry and push/pull objects weighing up to 25 lbs (occasionally); assist in the movement of weights of up to 84-87 lbs (rarely). Position requires repetitive use of hands involving simple grasping and fine manipulation for operation controls. Must push/pull to open/close cab door and apply hand brakes. Occasional bending, stooping and kneeling to inspect locomotive; coordination and balance sufficient to climb short ladder to cab, walk on catwalk, ballast, and uneven terrain (rarely and for short distances). Must be able to coordinate movements with visual information. Must be able to remain seated or standing more than one half of a workshift with opportunity to change position periodically for comfort.

WORK CONDITIONS

Employees must be willing and able to perform the essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation, under the following work conditions:

WORK ENVIRONMENT. Work is frequently performed outdoors involving exposure to all weather conditions. Many locomotive cabs are temperature controlled but the work activity may be performed with cab windows open. Work performed in presence of noise, vibration, and heat produced by locomotive. Work performed in cab of locomotive (confined space) for extended periods. Position requires hearing protection; potential exposure to diesel and vehicle fumes and dust.

JOB SCHEDULE ENVIRONMENT. Must be willing to work nonstandard hours which may include on-call hours, variable shifts, night shifts, weekends or holidays. Work may require extended time away from home (2-5 days) and extended shifts (up to 12 hours).

SAFETY ENVIRONMENT. Must work and walk around heavy, moving equipment.

JOB ENTRY. Engineer trainee job vacancies are filled by incumbent trainmen in seniority order who satisfy eligibility criteria. The engineer trainee must complete a training period which consists of classroom/simulator training and supervised field trip operations in the assigned territory. Engineers must renew FRA certifications at three year intervals which require meeting standards for physical reexamination, rule certification, field check trips, and driver's license review.

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