NEW HOS RULES AT A GLANCE: WHAT DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW

New Hours of Service rules come into effect on September 29, 2020. The rules aim to give you, the driver, more flexibility without any impact on road safety. If you're an ORBCOMM customer, these updates will be available automatically.

Here's a quick rundown of the changes and how they will affect you.



30-MINUTE BREAK REQUIREMENT

You will now be required to take a 30-minute break only after eight hours of driving time instead of on-duty time. The break can also now be logged as on-duty, not driving time. This time can be combined with sleeper berth or off-duty status, but the 30 minutes must be consecutive.

SLEEPER BERTH PROVISION

You can now split the required 10 hours off-duty into two periods; an 8/2 hour split or a 7/3 split. When paired, neither period will count against the 14-hour driving window.



ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITION EXCEPTION

You will now get an extra two hours of on-duty time, allowing you to drive for up to 13 hours within a 16-hour driving window in adverse driving conditions. The decision to use adverse driving conditions has been extended to drivers, for conditions unknown before starting the duty day or beginning driving after rest breaks or sleeper berth periods.



SHORT-HAUL EXCEPTION

If you are using the short-haul exception, you can now drive within a 150 air-mile radius instead of within a 100 air-mile radius. You can also have a longer duty-period, extended to a maximum of 14 hours compared to 12 hours previously.

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This information is only intended to be general summary information and is not intended to take the place of official FMCSA advice. For a full listing of the rule changes please visit the FMCSA or ORBCOMM blog.