

## § 220.1

220.186 When and how often the Board will conduct a continuing disability review.

220.187 If the annuitant's medical recovery was expected and the annuitant returned to work.

APPENDIX 1 TO PART 220—[RESERVED]

APPENDIX 2 TO PART 220—MEDICAL-VOCATIONAL GUIDELINES

APPENDIX 3 TO PART 220—RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITY STANDARDS

AUTHORITY: 45 U.S.C. 231a; 45 U.S.C. 231f.

SOURCE: 56 FR 12980, Mar. 28, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General

#### § 220.1 Introduction of part.

(a) This part explains how disability determinations are made by the Railroad Retirement Board. In some determinations of disability entitlement, as described below, the Board makes the decision of disability under the Railroad Retirement Act based on the regulations set out in this part. However, in certain other determinations of disability entitlement (as also described below) the Board has the authority to decide whether the claimant is disabled as that term is defined in the Social Security Act and the regulations of the Social Security Administration.

(b) In order for a claimant to become entitled to a railroad retirement annuity based on disability for his or her regular railroad occupation, or to become entitled to a railroad retirement annuity based on disability for any regular employment as an employee, widow(er), or child, he or she must be disabled as those terms are defined in the Railroad Retirement Act. In order for a claimant to become entitled to a period of disability, to early Medicare coverage based on disability, to benefits under the social security overall minimum, or to a disability annuity as a surviving divorced spouse or remarried widow(er), the claimant must be found disabled as that term is defined in the Social Security Act.

#### § 220.2 The basis for the Board's disability decision.

(a) The Board makes disability decisions for claims of disability under the Railroad Retirement Act. These decisions are based either on the rules con-

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tained in the Board's regulations in this part or the rules contained in the regulations of the Social Security Administration, whichever is controlling.

(b) A disability decision is made only if the claimant meets other basic eligibility requirements for the specific disability benefit for which he or she is applying. For example, a claimant for an occupational disability annuity must first meet the eligibility requirements for that annuity, as explained in part 216 of this chapter, in order for the Board to make a disability decision.

#### § 220.3 Determinations by other organizations and agencies.

Determinations of the Social Security Administration or any other governmental or non-governmental agency about whether or not a claimant is disabled under the laws, regulations or standards administered by that agency shall be considered by the Board but are not binding on the Board.

### Subpart B—General Definitions of Terms Used in This Part

#### § 220.5 Definitions as used in this part.

*Act* means the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

*Application* refers only to a form described in part 217 of this chapter.

*Board* means the Railroad Retirement Board.

*Claimant* means the person for whom an application for an annuity, period of disability or Medicare coverage is filed.

*Eligible* means that a person would meet all the requirements for payment of an annuity but has not yet applied.

*Employee* is defined in part 203 of this title.

*Entitled* means that a person has applied and has proven his or her right to have the annuity, period of disability, or Medicare coverage begin.

*Medical source* refers to both a treating source and a source of record.

*Review physician* means a medical doctor either employed by or under contract to the Board who upon request reviews medical evidence and provides medical advice.

*Social security overall minimum* refers to the provision of the Railroad Retirement Act which guarantees that the total monthly annuities payable to an

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employee and his or her family will not be less than the total monthly amount which would be payable under the Social Security Act if the employee's railroad service were credited as employment under the Social Security Act.

*Source of record* means a hospital, clinic or other source that has provided a claimant with medical treatment or evaluation, as well as a physician or psychologist who has treated or evaluated a claimant but does not have an ongoing relationship with him or her.

*Treating source* means the claimant's own physician or psychologist who has provided the claimant with medical treatment or evaluation and who has an ongoing treatment relationship with him or her.

### Subpart C—Disability Under the Railroad Retirement Act for Work in an Employee's Regular Railroad Occupation

#### § 220.10 Disability for work in an employee's regular railroad occupation.

(a) In order to receive an occupational disability annuity an eligible employee must be found by the Board to be disabled for work in his or her regular railroad occupation because of a permanent physical or mental impairment. In this subpart the Board describes in general terms how it evaluates a claim for an occupational disability annuity. In accordance with section 2(a)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act this subpart was developed with the cooperation of employers and employees. This subpart is supplemented by an Occupational Disability Claims Manual (Manual)<sup>1</sup> which was also developed with the cooperation of employers and employees.

(b) In accordance with section 2(a)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act, the Board shall select two physicians, one from recommendations made by representatives of employers and one from recommendations made by representatives of employees. These individuals shall comprise the Occupational Dis-

ability Advisory Committee (Committee). This Committee shall periodically review, as necessary, this subpart and the Manual and make recommendations to the Board with respect to amendments to this subpart or to the Manual. The Board shall confer with the Committee before it amends either this subpart or the Manual.

[63 FR 7541, Feb. 13, 1998]

#### § 220.11 Definitions as used in this subpart.

*Functional capacity test* means one of a number of tests which provide objective measures of a claimant's maximal work ability and includes functional capacity evaluations which provide a systematic comprehensive assessment of a claimant's overall strength, mobility, endurance and capacity to perform physically demanding tasks, such as standing, walking, lifting, crouching, stooping or bending, climbing or kneeling.

*Independent Case Evaluation* (ICE) means the process for evaluating claims not covered by appendix 3 of this part.

*Permanent physical or mental impairment* means a physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments that can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

*Regular railroad occupation* means an employee's railroad occupation in which he or she has engaged in service for hire in more calendar months than the calendar months in which he or she has been engaged in service for hire in any other occupation during the last preceding five calendar years, whether or not consecutive; or has engaged in service for hire in not less than one-half of all of the months in which he or she has been engaged in service for hire during the last preceding 15 consecutive calendar years. If an employee last worked as an officer or employee of a railway labor organization and if continuance in such employment is no longer available to him or her, the "regular occupation" shall be the position to which the employee holds seniority rights or the position which he or she left to work for a railway labor organization.

<sup>1</sup>The Manual may be obtained from the Board's headquarters at 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611.