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**Regulatory changes to Compensatory Time off for Travel – Prevailing Rate (Wage)**  
**Employees: Effective May 28, 2008**  
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Prevailing Rate (Wage) Employees

Wage Grade employees are now eligible to earn compensatory time off for travel for time spent in a travel status away from the official duty station when such time is not otherwise compensable. Agencies must credit prevailing rate (wage) employees who perform officially authorized travel on or after April 27, 2008 with any compensatory time off for travel to which they are entitled under the law and regulations.

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**The following are regulatory changes to Compensatory Time Off for Travel effective May 17, 2007**

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Meal times

Previously, meal periods while waiting at a transportation terminal could not be counted as part of the “usual waiting” time which was compensable as Compensatory Time Off for Travel. Usual waiting time for domestic travel has been defined as 1 hour prior to departure at a terminal (airport, train station, etc.) and 1 hour between connections. Usual waiting time for international travel has been defined as 2 hours prior to departure and 2 hours between connections. Effective May 17, meal time can now be counted as part of the “usual waiting” time at transportation terminals for Compensatory Time Off for Travel.

Meal times taken in transit while not on a carrier or waiting at a terminal would still not qualify as compensable for Compensatory Time Off for Travel (e.g., stopping for a meal when traveling in a rental vehicle from the terminal to the temporary duty station would not count as Compensatory Time Off for Travel.)

Exception due to an Exigency

If an employee fails to use his or her Compensatory Time Off for Travel within 26 pay periods due to an exigency of service beyond the employee’s control, an authorized agency official may extend the time limit for the use of the leave for up to an additional 26 pay periods.

Holidays

As a clarification, while Compensatory Time Off for Travel cannot be earned for travel that occurs during an employee’s tour of duty (TOD) on a holiday, it can be earned on the holiday during those times outside of the employee’s TOD.

Union Activities

As a clarification, time spent traveling in connection with union activities is not creditable for the purpose of earning Compensatory Time Off for Travel.

Permanent Change in Station (PCS)

As a clarification, travel time in connection with an employee's PCS is not time in a travel status for the purpose of earning Compensatory Time Off for Travel.

These changes and clarifications will be reflected in an updated version of P&P 402.3, Premium Pay, <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/ppweb/pdf/402-3.pdf>. Fact sheets on Compensatory Time Off and Compensatory Time Off for Travel are available at <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/payleave/>

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