

Next (34hr) Start Explained

Introduction

The new US Hours of Service rule changes, going into effect on July 1, 2013, include some significant limitations on the 34 hour reset. It is important to understand these limitations and how Omnitracs' implemented changes that support your business. Among the changes, a new field titled, "Next (34) Start" is added to both the host and mobile. This new field provides value added information to both the driver and operations staff to determine the timing of the next 34 hour reset. This document assumes a general understanding of the application of the 34 hour reset rule and intends to explain how the Next (34) Start field is calculated.

The Rule

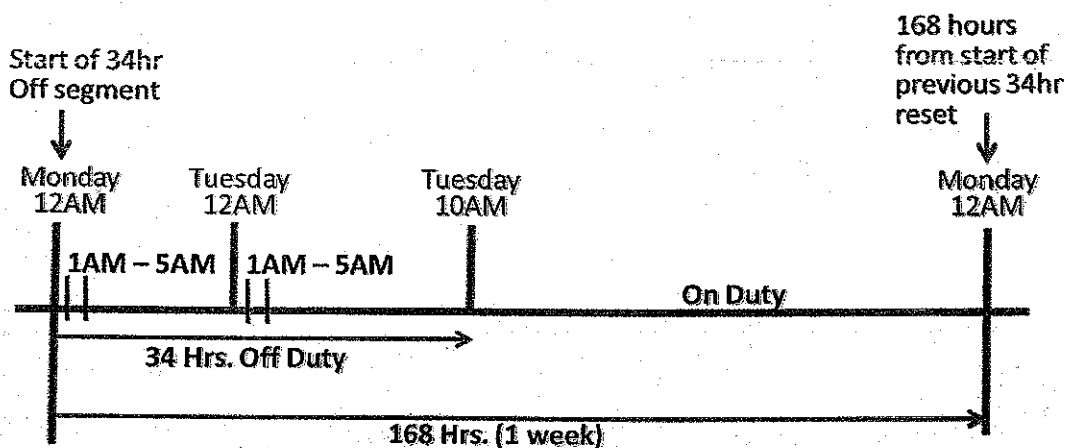
Prior to July 1, 2013, any off-duty period of 34 consecutive hours gives the driver a reset of his weekly 60 or 70 hour clock. The off-duty can be any combination of Off-Duty, Sleeper Berth, or Off-Duty Driving as long as it is 34 consecutive hours. There is no limitation on how many times a reset can be used in a week. Starting July 1, 2013, the 34 reset has the following two new limitations:

1. Must include two consecutive periods of 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. home terminal time
2. May only be used once per week (168 hour weekly rule limitation)

Once per week limitation:

To fully understand this part of the rule language you must consider both the 168 hour weekly rule limitation and the 1 a.m. – 5 a.m. requirement (see Figure 1). The driver goes off-duty Monday at 12 a.m. and stays off-duty until Tuesday at 10a.m. The driver is automatically granted a 34 hour reset because the off-duty was 34 consecutive hours and that time included two periods from 1 – 5 a.m. If the driver wants to take another reset the following week, he must consider the 168 hour limitation. The driver is not eligible to start counting off-duty time towards the next 34 hour reset until Monday at 12 a.m. If the driver is off-duty at that time and stays off- duty for 34 hours, a reset is granted on the following Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Figure 1

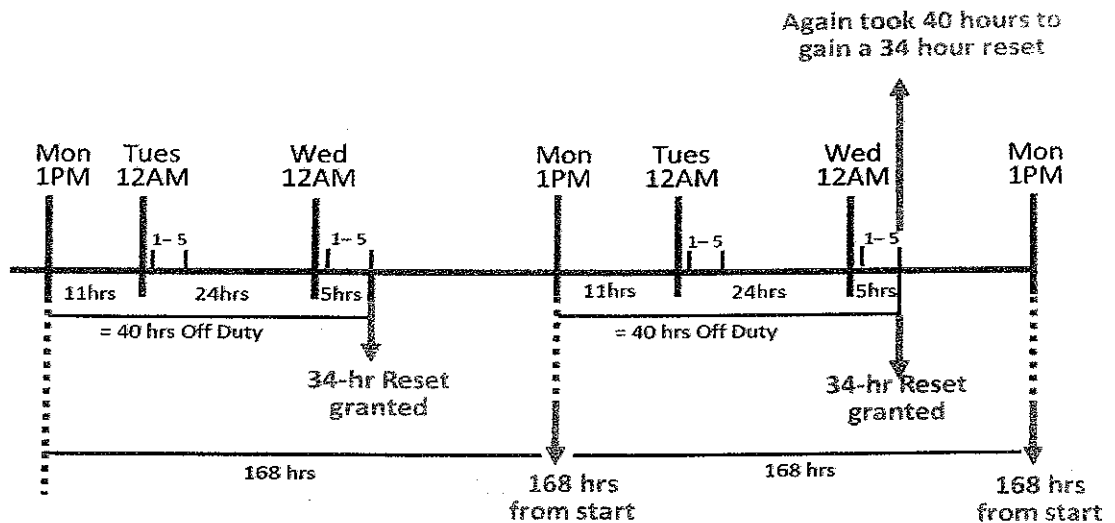


In this example driver can go off-duty prior to the second Monday at 12 a.m. however; any time prior to 12 a.m. will not be counted towards the 34 hour reset. In addition, the driver can start his off-duty time after Monday at 12 a.m., but when he does; he will not be granted a reset until a later time and subsequently may also push out the time of the next reset.

In this example, because the driver started his reset between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m., the driver can satisfy the 168 hour limit and only take 34 hours off to get a reset.

If the driver starts his off-duty segment at a time outside of the 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. time period, he can still get a reset and satisfy the 168 hour limit; however it will require more consecutive time in off-duty to meet the required limitations (see Figure 2). In this example, the driver starts the off-duty segment outside of the 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. timeframe. When the driver starts his off-duty segment at 1 p.m., he must stay off-duty until 5 a.m. on Wednesday to earn a reset and include the two 1 - 5 a.m. periods. So in this example, the driver gets a reset, but it requires he be off-duty for 40 hours to meet the requirements. To satisfy the 168 hour requirement the driver can start counting off-duty time towards the next reset as early as 1 p.m. the following Monday. However, if started then, it will again take 40 hours of off-duty time to earn the reset.

Figure 2



Even though the language of the rule says that the driver may start the next reset 168 hours from the start of the previous reset, starting any time sooner than 7 p.m. does not help get the reset (see Figure 3). The driver can go off-duty prior to 1 p.m. or after 1 p.m. the following Monday and still be compliant, however the reality is that any off-duty time before 7 p.m. on the following Monday does not count towards the 34 hour reset. The driver can go off-duty every week on Monday at 1 p.m. for 40 hours and get a reset, but it does not mean he is non-compliant if he goes off-duty sooner or later. The only impact of changing the start time of the off-duty segment is the calculation of when the 34 hour reset will be granted.

Figure 3

