

California's Hours of Service are Changing

The California Highway Patrol has announced that the long-awaited changes to California's HOS will become effective on Sunday, November 11, 2007. The new rules are patterned after the federal hours of service rules adopted in October 2005. (The 2005 federal rules remain in effect for the time being until the court case brought on by Concerned Citizens is ruled upon.) There are some differences as well as similarities between the state rules and the federal regulations. Below you will see both state and federal rules.

Hours Rest Required (Off duty or Sleeper or combination)

California	Federal
10 consecutive	10 consecutive

Use of Sleeper Berth Exemption

California	Federal
8 & 2 hour split	8 & 2 hour split

COMMENT: Split sleeper berth only exists in the following formula: 8 consecutive hours in a sleeper followed by 2 additional hours of combined time off-duty and/or sleeper. It can also be used in a formula of 2 hours combined time off-duty and/or sleeper followed by 8 consecutive hours sleeper berth.

Hours Allowed to Drive Between Rest Periods *No change from previous rule

California	Federal
12	11

On Duty Hours Before Driving is Prohibited

California	Federal
16 consecutive	14 consecutive

COMMENT: Drivers are allowed to be on duty in excess of 16 hours but cannot drive a commercial motor vehicle after the 16th hour.

Local Driving Rules (100 MI radius & Reporting to Same Place)

California	Federal
12 consecutive	12 consecutive

Comment: The 100 Air Mile Radius rule remains unchanged.

Use of 16 Hour Exemption

California	Federal
No – already have 16 hours	Yes, primarily once a week

34 Hour Restart Provision

California	Federal
Yes	Yes (subject to FMCSA action)