FAR 117 Reserve Duty Limits Legality

There is a known issue with tracking of legality for reserve pilots on short call which necessitates manual crosschecking. Pilots must verify all FAR 117 limits when accepting an assignment, especially if your FDP begins more than four hours into a short call Reserve Availability Period (RAP).

As a reminder, a Reserve who is assigned to Short Call and subsequently assigned to a trip in the same duty period must take into account his time on Short Call before reporting for the FDP. The combined total time on short call Reserve Availability Period (RAP) plus the FDP is governed by the following:

**FAR 117 § 117.21 Reserve status:**

(3) For an unaugmented operation, the total number of hours a flightcrew member may spend in a flight duty period and a reserve availability period may not exceed the lesser of the maximum applicable flight duty period in **Table B of this part plus 4 hours**, or 16 hours, as measured from the beginning of the reserve availability period.

(4) For an augmented operation, the total number of hours a flightcrew member may spend in a flight duty period and a reserve availability period may not exceed the flight duty period in **Table C of this part plus 4 hours**, as measured from the beginning of the reserve availability period.

There are two tests for legality for assignments made when on Short Call, the Table B/C test and the combined FDP+RAP test. For the Table B/C test, reserves must ensure the FDP is legal per Table B/C using the acclimated report time of the FDP. Note, for entering Table B/C you must use the report time of the trip you are assigned to fly, not the start time of the RAP. Be sure to subtract 30 minutes from the Table B/C result if you are not acclimated.

For the combined FDP+RAP test, reserves must ensure the **combined number of hours of the RAP + FDP do not exceed:**

**Unaugmented:** Table B of this part plus 4 hours, not to exceed 16 hours

**Augmented:** Table C plus 4 hours
To illustrate these two tests, please see the examples below.

It is recommended that you use the **ALPA FAR 117 App** to follow through the examples. Remember, once you have received a legal assignment, it may be extended up to two hours per FAR 117.19. Note: The ALPA FAR 117 App does not include the two hour extension.

**Example 1:** A pilot is on Short Call beginning at 0500. He is assigned a single segment of unaugmented flying with an FDP scheduled to begin at 0800 and end at 2025 (12:25 FDP). This is a **legal** assignment because it satisfies the following tests:

- Table B calculation - an 0800 report time yields a maximum flight duty period of 14 hours. The 12:25 FDP is legal.

- Combined RAP+FDP calculation - a 3 hour RAP (0500 RAP start with 0800 FDP report) plus 12:25 FDP = 15:25, for a single leg, which is less than the 16 hour maximum combined RAP+FDP limit.

**Example 2:** A pilot is on Short Call beginning at 0500. He is assigned a single segment of unaugmented flying with an FDP scheduled to begin at 0930 and end at 2230 (13:00 FDP). This is an **illegal** assignment because although it passes the Table B test, it fails the maximum RAP+FDP test:

- Table B calculation - an 0930 report time yields a maximum flight duty period of 14 hours. The 13:00 FDP is legal.

- Combined RAP+FDP calculation - a 4 hour and 30 minute RAP (0500 RAP start with 0930 FDP report) plus 13:00 FDP = 17:30, for a single leg, which is greater than the 16 hour maximum combined RAP+FDP limit. THIS IS ILLEGAL.

**Example 3:** A pilot is on Short Call beginning at 1000. He is assigned a deadhead leg, followed by a single leg of single-augmented flying on an aircraft with a Class I rest facility, with an FDP scheduled to begin at 1700 and end at 0750 (14:50 FDP). This is an **illegal** assignment because although it passes the Table C test, it fails the maximum RAP+FDP test:

- Table C calculation - an 1700 report time yields a maximum flight duty period of 15 hours. The 14:50 FDP is legal.

- Combined RAP+FDP calculation - a 7 hour RAP (1000 RAP start with 1700 FDP report)
plus 14:50 FDP = 21:50, which is greater than the Table C + 4 hour (15+4) maximum combined RAP+FDP limit (19 hours). THIS IS ILLEGAL, EVEN WITH CREW CONCURRENCE TO EXTEND 2 HOURS.

Remember, to find your Cumulative Clock totals for FAR 117, you may access a report showing your cumulative flight time and flight duty period limits via this link: [Flying Together Home>Departments>Flight Operations FAR 117 Summary Data](#). The reports are listed by category in a large PDF file (use the search function to find your file number).

Note: the above discussion covers the FAR 117 legality. The UPA may be more restrictive and pilots should reference Section 5-E for scheduled duty limits and Section 5-F for actual limits.