

When Do I Need A Pilot?

Reminder

If a pilot is required, ask for a pilot. If told to go without one, **do not be insubordinate**. Document the time and details of who instructed you, what was said, and when, then report the violation using the form linked via the QR code.



Scan to report
a violation

Conductor Territory Qualification Requirements

CFR reference: [49 CFR 242.301](#)

Time Since Last Operated	Pilot / Assistant Requirement	Eligible Employees to be Pilot/Assistant
Never operated	Required	Certified conductor who is not an assigned crew member (unless designated as conductor pilot)
Less than 1 year	Not required	N/A
1 to 2 years*	Required	Any qualified crew member including the operating engineer
Over 2 years	Required	Any qualified crew member except the operating engineer

*Applies provided you regularly traversed the territory before the qualification expired.

Engineer Territory Qualification Requirements

CFR reference: [49 CFR 240.231](#)

Territory Experience / Status	Pilot Requirement	Eligible Pilot Personnel
Never traversed territory	Required	Certified locomotive engineer who is not an assigned crew member (unless assigned solely as pilot)
Traversed within the last year	Not required	N/A
Over 1 year since last traversed	Required	Any person qualified on the physical characteristics who is not an assigned crew member (unless assigned solely as pilot)

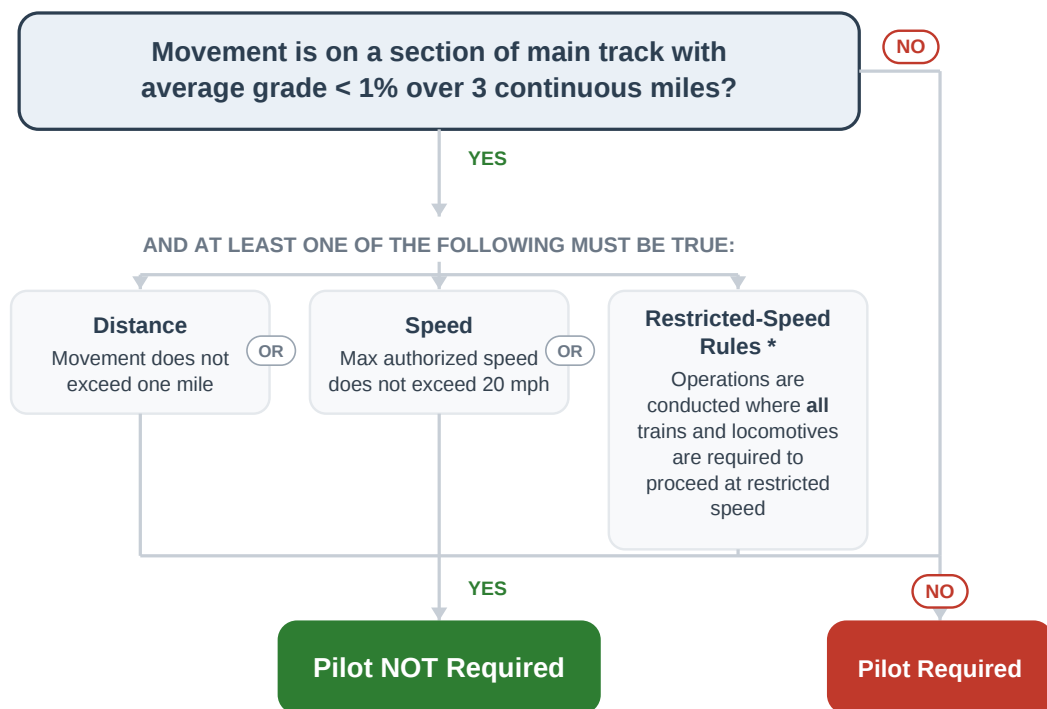
Exceptions

A pilot is **not required** if the movement is on a section of main track with an average grade of less than 1% over 3 continuous miles, **and**:

- The maximum distance the locomotive or train will be operated does not exceed one mile; **or**
- The maximum authorized speed for any operation on the track does not exceed 20 miles per hour; **or**
- Operations are conducted under operating rules that require **every** locomotive and train to proceed at a speed that permits stopping within one half the range of vision of the locomotive engineer

Important

Being told to operate your train at restricted speed over the segment of track does **not** satisfy this exception!



** Being told to operate at restricted speed does not satisfy this exception — the operating rules themselves must require it.*