

QUESTIONS ABOUT TRA

1) I am currently working and will be laid off in November. When do I apply for a waiver if I don't want to attend training classes?

A: A waiver can be obtained in September which is 26 weeks from the date of certification OR the person can get a waiver within 26 weeks from his most recent separation date, so 26 weeks from his November layoff date. I don't know anything about the sub-pay that GM is offering or what their requirements are, but on our end, the worker has 26 weeks from either the certification or most recent separation date to get their waiver.

2) I am working and will not be laid off (have a separation date of 11-09-09? I want to protect my benefits. How does the waiver work for me?

A: A worker must obtain a waiver within 26 weeks from the separation date or certification date, whichever is later. If this worker will not be laid off in the future, they need to obtain a waiver within 26 weeks from the date of certification, so they have until September 2010 to get their waiver.

3) Is the initial waiver good for 90 days and then subject to renewal every 30 days after that?

A: The waiver is in effect for a 6 month period; however, it can be extended beyond 6 months if needed to cover the TRA eligibility period. A person is required to update their waiver on a 60, 30, 30, 30 day calendar which will be explained when they obtain their waiver.

4) I am currently laid off. I already faxed in my 920 form. When do I apply for a waiver?

A: Again, a person needs to obtain a waiver 26 weeks from either their layoff date or certification date, whichever is later.

5) Once I initiate a waiver, is it a requirement I look for work every week?

A: Depending on the reason the waiver was issued, yes, the person will need to be looking for work each week. Unless there are health reasons as to why the person can't work, they do need to be actively seeking employment.

6) Are the waiver forms the same in every Michigan works office? Would it be possible for us to get a blank waiver form faxed to us at 248-377-

5182? This would be only for our office example. We would not copy or give to anyone.

A: Yes, the waivers are the same in every office. Yes, I will send you an example.

7) We are being told our workforce is being recalled to work in May of 2011. Is it possible to get a waiver until then?

A: Yes, the person could get a waiver from September to May. If we base the waiver on the recall date, we need something in writing from the company stating the date in which the worker will be recalled.

8) An employee is on sick leave. He/she has a layoff date of 11-30-09. When they return from sick leave they will be laid off again and have a new layoff date. Do they use the old or new layoff date?

A: It's best for the worker to use the most recent separation date (provided it is still within the certification timeframe).

9) What is the waiver for?

A: The waiver is to protect eligibility for Basic TRA benefits. In order to be eligible for Basic TRA, a person must either be enrolled in training OR have a waiver from training.

10) How long do we need to keep the waiver updated? We have heard anywhere from 6 months to 2 years. Straight up, we have many high seniority employees who know they will be returning to work so they don't want to attend training. However, we have been told if they don't have a waiver or attend class they will not qualify for TRA which will disqualify them from receiving sub-pay.

A: The waiver is usually issued for 6 months; however, a person is eligible to collect TRA benefits for up to two years from their date of separation. We are able to extend the waiver beyond the 6 months if needed to cover a person's eligibility period for TRA.

11) Must I be enrolled in class or have a waiver to get TRA benefits?

A: Yes, a person cannot collect TRA unless they are either in training or have a waiver from training

12) How long will it take TRA to begin once I exhaust my regular u.c. and extensions?

A: If a person is eligible for TRA benefits, it will begin immediately following the exhaustion of Unemployment. We recommend that people contact the TRA Unit a week or two before they exhaust Unemployment benefits to make sure everything is all set up. Again, depending on how many extensions a person has collected, they may or may not be eligible for TRA benefits. Everyone's situation is different which is why we recommend they contact the TRA Unit to get their specific answer

13) Some of our members were told at the TRA phone number if congress did not approve u.c. extensions we would not qualify for TRA payments. Is that true?

A: If congress does not approve the extensions, it would be more probable that workers would be eligible for TRA benefits. Each week of an extension takes away 1 week of TRA. If there aren't any extensions, the person would get the full amount of TRA. If they exhaust all extensions, they may not get any Basic TRA.

14) If an employee went on sick leave before March 17,2010 and does not return till September 2010, Does that start a new sign up window for them?

A: If the person is on sick leave, did they ever have a layoff date? If there was never a layoff date, then they aren't separated from the company and are not eligible for TAA.

15) I am currently working, but I plan to retire before 2012 when our certification ends. Can I wait and sign up when I retire?

A: Yes, the expiration date of the certification does not impact that particular worker in any way. As long as the worker has a separation date from Orion Assembly before the expiration date, he can sign up anytime.

16) I am currently working as a trades person.I don't think I will be laid off. However, I still want to sign up for the benefits. What should I do?

A: Did the person have a qualifying separation date? If so, they can sign up for benefits now using their most recent separation date. If they do not have a separation date, they are not qualified.

17) I am currently working as a trades person and it looks as though I will be laid off November or December. Do I sign up now or wait till my layoff?

A: The person can either sign up now using their most recent separation date or wait until they are laid off and use that date. Either way, it doesn't matter as long as they have a separation date between the impact date and the expiration date of the certification, they are eligible.

18) I assume if I continue to work, I do not have to look for work during the waiver period?

A: That is correct. If a person is working, they do not need to look for work.

19) Once I start my waiver I realize I must start searching for work. How does that process work? What documentation do I need to provide to the TRA unit, and how do I provide the information?

A: Have the person keep a job search log (which anyone collecting unemployment should always do). Have them write down the date, company, position and outcome. There is a job search form in the green unemployment book they should have gotten. Otherwise, they can keep their own. The TRA Unit does not need a copy of it unless they ask for it.