

**#19 – The presentation mentioned that the unpaid 30 minute lunch is no longer required on a compressed schedule – is such a break still required on IFP for periods of work longer than 6 hours?**

A: As of October 2017, employees on IFP are no longer required to take a 30 min. unpaid meal break if they work 6 or more hours in a day. This will not change. Employees on a compressed schedule are currently required to include a 30 minute unpaid lunch in their work schedule. This requirement would be eliminated under the new CBA.

**#20 – Is overtime eligibility still the same under the new CBA?**

A: Overtime and compensatory time eligibility requirements would not change for patent examiners under the new CBA.

**#21 – IFP has a restriction for working Sunday and Saturday of the same work week. Is this due to federal law, or is it solely a USPTO policy?**

A: The law covering flexible work schedules (5 USC 6122) allows the agency to set conditions for work schedules such as this.

**#22 – Has there been any consideration to improve the partial signatory program, for example, by including restrictions in cases reviewed as they had previously been?**

A: The signatory programs, both partial and full, were reviewed during the PAP negotiations and were updated at that time and are covered in separate agreements for Utility and Plant Examiners and Design Examiners. The programs were not part of the CBA negotiation.

**#23: Why is TRP not part of the CBA?**

A: The discussions on TRP are going to be continuing for a while to get a final solution to timing and routing. Those talks have been continuing while we have been negotiating the CBA.

**#24 - In the CBA meeting, there was mention of technical reading time. What is the current policy and where can I find more details? I haven't heard of this before. Is this similar to the 25 hour training bank?**

A: Technical reading is in the 1986 CBA as well as in the new proposed CBA. Time is available in areas where technical journals are needed for examiners to stay current in their art. It is not part of or similar to the 25-hour training bank. Once the CBA is ratified and implemented, you can have a discussion with your SPE.

**#25 - You mentioned during the meeting on the CBA that there were bills pending re: retirement, telework, etc. that could affect federal workers. Where may we keep abreast of these types of issues?**

A: There is not one location to find all of this information. There are a couple of websites where you can get information on federal employees and Congressional actions including Federal News Network and [www.wtop.com](http://www.wtop.com) (they usually have various stories on federal employee issues).