



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

BILATERAL VERSUS UNILATERAL HEARING LOSS

A calibrated guide to service connection, audiology evidence, and VA rating rules.

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

BOTH

BILATERAL SERVICE CONNECTION

Assign a Roman numeral to each service-connected ear and combine them through Table VII.

ONE

ONE SERVICE-CONNECTED EAR

Ordinarily assign Roman numeral I to the non-service-connected ear before Table VII.

PAIR

PAIRED-ORGAN RULE

A separate rule in 3.383 may apply when qualifying impairment affects paired ears.

ONE RATE

NO SEPARATE EAR PERCENTAGES

The hearing-loss evaluation is one combined percentage, not one percentage per ear.

Apply the exact regulation and evidence to the individual record. A diagnosis, exposure, or test result does not replace the remaining service-connection elements.

