

HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

TINNITUS

ONE 10 PERCENT RATING

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

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

10%

SINGLE SCHEDULAR EVALUATION

DC 6260 authorizes one 10 percent evaluation for recurrent tinnitus.

ONE OR BOTH

LOCATION DOES NOT MULTIPLY THE RATING

The same single evaluation applies whether tinnitus is perceived in one ear, both ears, or the head.

SEPARATE

DISTINCT FROM HEARING LOSS

Tinnitus and hearing loss use different diagnostic codes and may be evaluated separately when service connected.

CAUSE

IDENTIFY THE THEORY

Evidence still must support direct, secondary, or another valid service-connection pathway.

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