



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

COMMON CLAIM MISTAKES

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

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

CONFUSING DIAGNOSIS WITH NEXUS

A current disability and hazardous noise do not automatically prove a service relationship.

2

USING THE WRONG SPEECH TEST

A private word-recognition score is not automatically a Maryland CNC result.

3

EXPECTING TWO TINNITUS RATINGS

DC 6260 provides one 10 percent evaluation, not one per ear.

4

IGNORING THE FULL NOISE HISTORY

A complete opinion should address military and post-service exposures plus the timing of symptoms.

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

