



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

WHEN HEARING LOSS MEETS 38 CFR 3.385

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

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

40 dB

ONE FREQUENCY

An auditory threshold of 40 decibels or greater at 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, or 4000 Hz.

26 dB

THREE FREQUENCIES

Auditory thresholds of 26 decibels or greater at any three of those five frequencies.

<94%

SPEECH RECOGNITION

Maryland CNC speech-recognition score below 94 percent.

RULE

ANY ONE PATH

Meeting any one of these tests establishes hearing-loss disability for VA purposes. It does not by itself establish service connection.

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

