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PROTECTION TIMELINE AND EFFECTIVE-DATE WORKSHEET

Build the timeline from effective dates before deciding which protection has attached.



USE Codesheet and rating decisions	TRACK Each evaluation level separately	COMPARE Status date to action effective date
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RULE FILE

Protection periods are measured with effective dates. The date VA mailed a rating decision can differ from the effective date assigned inside it.

WORKSHEET 01 | GATHER THE RECORD

WRITE DOWN THE DATES THAT CONTROL

Service connection effective date	Starts the ten-year service-connection clock.	MM / DD / YYYY
Current evaluation effective date	Use the date the present level began, not only the date of the latest letter.	MM / DD / YYYY
Earlier evaluation levels	List each percentage and the period it was continuously in force.	PERCENT + DATES
P&T or static notation	Record the codesheet notation and the decision that established it.	STATUS + DATE
Proposal notice date	Starts the 30-day hearing request and 60-day evidence response clocks.	MM / DD / YYYY
Final-action notice date	If VA finalizes the action, use this notice for the later effective-date calculation.	MM / DD / YYYY

WORKSHEET 02 | CALCULATE PROTECTION

RUN THREE SEPARATE CALCULATIONS

5Y Stabilization Compare the effective date of the evaluation at issue with the proposed reduction's effective date.	10Y Service connection Compare the service-connection effective date with the effective date of the severance decision.	20Y Evaluation floor Identify each evaluation continuously held and compare its effective date with the effective date of the proposed lower evaluation.
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Keep the rating narrative and the codesheet together. The narrative explains the reasons; the codesheet usually shows diagnostic codes, effective dates, future-exam status, and combined evaluations.

DO NOT ROUND THE CLOCK

A status being almost five, ten, or twenty years old is not the same as the protection having attached. Use the actual effective dates and the effective date of the adverse action.

