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P&T, STATIC, 100%, AND PROTECTED RATINGS COMPARED



Four labels veterans hear often, with four different legal consequences.

P&T
Total plus permanence

STATIC
Reexamination designation

PROTECTED
Rule-specific legal safeguard

RULE FILE

A veteran may hold several of these statuses at once, but none is a substitute for identifying the exact regulation that governs a proposed change.

COMPARE 01 | FOUR STATUS FILES

WHAT THE LABEL USUALLY MEANS

P&T

Permanent and Total

VA has found total disability and permanence. Routine future examinations generally should not be scheduled, but P&T is not itself a twenty-year evaluation floor.

STATIC

Static condition

The condition is not expected to improve. Section 3.327 generally bars periodic future examinations for a disability established as static.

100%

Total schedular rating

A non-temporary total schedular evaluation has the material-improvement safeguard in section 3.343(a). This is separate from TDIU.

PROTECTED

Protected rating

This phrase can refer to a five-year process safeguard, ten-year service-connection protection, twenty-year evaluation floor, or another specific rule.

COMPARE 02 | QUESTIONS EACH LABEL ANSWERS

ASK THE QUESTION THE LABEL CAN ANSWER

QUESTION	P&T	STATIC	100% SCHEDULAR	TIME PROTECTION
Is a routine future exam expected?	Generally no	Generally no	Depends on permanence and facts	Some rules affect exams
Is the percentage frozen?	Not by P&T alone	No	Material-improvement safeguards	Twenty-year floor can apply
Is service connection protected?	Not by P&T alone	No	Not by percentage alone	Ten-year rule can apply
Does VA have any review authority?	Authority remains in defined situations	Authority remains when necessary	Reduction test still exists	Depends on the rule and exception

COMPARE 03 | COMMON MISTAKE

DO NOT TURN A STATUS LABEL INTO AN ABSOLUTE PROMISE

Statements such as "P&T can never be reviewed," "over age 55 means VA cannot order an exam," or "ten years freezes the rating" are too broad. The exact protection depends on the status being changed and the regulation that controls it.

READ THE CODESHEET

The codesheet can show effective dates, diagnostic codes, future-exam status, combined evaluations, and special notations. Use it with the narrative decision and current medical record.

