

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## § 4.85

[29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, as amended at 34 FR 5062, Mar. 11, 1969; 40 FR 42537, Sept. 15, 1975; 41 FR 11297, Mar. 18, 1976; 43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978; 51 FR 6411, Feb. 24, 1986; 53 FR 30264, Aug. 11, 1988; 53 FR 50955, Dec. 19, 1988; 57 FR 24364, June 9, 1992]

### IMPAIRMENT OF AUDITORY ACUITY

#### § 4.85 Evaluation of hearing impairment.

(a) An examination for hearing impairment for VA purposes must be conducted by a state-licensed audiologist and must include a controlled speech discrimination test (Maryland CNC) and a puretone audiometry test. Examinations will be conducted without the use of hearing aids.

(b) Table VI, "Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based on Puretone Threshold Average and Speech Discrimination," is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based on a combination of the percent of speech discrimination (horizontal rows) and the puretone threshold average (vertical columns). The Roman numeral designation is located at the point where the percentage of speech discrimination and puretone threshold average intersect.

(c) Table VIa, "Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based Only on Puretone Threshold Average," is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based only on the puretone threshold average. Table VIa will be used when the examiner certifies that

use of the speech discrimination test is not appropriate because of language difficulties, inconsistent speech discrimination scores, etc., or when indicated under the provisions of § 4.86.

(d) "Puretone threshold average," as used in Tables VI and VIa, is the sum of the puretone thresholds at 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 Hertz, divided by four. This average is used in all cases (including those in § 4.86) to determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from Table VI or VIa.

(e) Table VII, "Percentage Evaluations for Hearing Impairment," is used to determine the percentage evaluation by combining the Roman numeral designations for hearing impairment of each ear. The horizontal rows represent the ear having the better hearing and the vertical columns the ear having the poorer hearing. The percentage evaluation is located at the point where the row and column intersect.

(f) If impaired hearing is service-connected in only one ear, in order to determine the percentage evaluation from Table VII, the non-service-connected ear will be assigned a Roman Numeral designation for hearing impairment of I, subject to the provisions of § 3.383 of this chapter.

(g) When evaluating any claim for impaired hearing, refer to § 3.350 of this chapter to determine whether the veteran may be entitled to special monthly compensation due either to deafness, or to deafness in combination with other specified disabilities.

(h) *Numeric tables VI, VIa\*, and VII.*

**TABLE VI**  
**NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ON**  
**PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE AND SPEECH DISCRIMINATION**

**Puretone Threshold Average**

<b>% of discrimination</b>	<b>0-41</b>	<b>42-49</b>	<b>50-57</b>	<b>58-65</b>	<b>66-73</b>	<b>74-81</b>	<b>82-89</b>	<b>90-97</b>	<b>98+</b>
<b>92-100</b>	I	I	I	II	II	II	III	III	IV
<b>84-90</b>	II	II	II	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV
<b>76-82</b>	III	III	IV	IV	IV	V	V	V	V
<b>68-74</b>	IV	IV	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VII
<b>60-66</b>	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII
<b>52-58</b>	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX
<b>44-50</b>	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X
<b>36-42</b>	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X	X	X
<b>0-34</b>	IX	X	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI

**TABLE VIA\***  
**NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ONLY ON**  
**PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE**

**Puretone Threshold Average**

<b>0-41</b>	<b>42-48</b>	<b>49-55</b>	<b>56-62</b>	<b>63-69</b>	<b>70-76</b>	<b>77-83</b>	<b>84-90</b>	<b>91-97</b>	<b>98-104</b>	<b>105+</b>
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI

\* This table is for use only as specified in §§ 4.85 and 4.86.

**TABLE VII**  
**PERCENTAGE EVALUATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT**  
**(DIAGNOSTIC CODE 6100)**

		<b>Poorer Ear</b>											
<b>Better Ear</b>	<b>XI</b>	100*											
	<b>X</b>	90	80										
	<b>IX</b>	80	70	60									
	<b>VIII</b>	70	60	50	50								
	<b>VII</b>	60	60	50	40	40							
	<b>VI</b>	50	50	40	40	30	30						
	<b>V</b>	40	40	40	30	30	20	20					
	<b>IV</b>	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10				
	<b>III</b>	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	0			
	<b>II</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0		
	<b>I</b>	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		<b>XI</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>IX</b>	<b>VIII</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>I</b>	

\* Review for entitlement to special monthly compensation under §3.350 of this chapter.

[64 FR 25206, May 11, 1999]

**§ 4.86 Exceptional patterns of hearing impairment.**

(a) When the puretone threshold at each of the four specified frequencies (1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hertz) is 55 decibels or more, the rating specialist will determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from either Table VI or Table VIa, whichever results in the higher nu-

meral. Each ear will be evaluated separately.

(b) When the puretone threshold is 30 decibels or less at 1000 Hertz, and 70 decibels or more at 2000 Hertz, the rating specialist will determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from either Table VI or Table VIa, whichever results in the higher numeral. That numeral will then be elevated to the next higher