

§ 220.132

20 CFR Ch. II (4-1-11 Edition)

Board will determine that the claimant is not disabled.

(c) *Inability to obtain work.* The Board will determine that the claimant is not disabled if he or she has the residual functional capacity and vocational abilities to do work which exists in the national economy but the claimant remains unemployed because of—

- (1) His or her inability to get work;
- (2) Lack of work in his or her local area;
- (3) The hiring practices of employers;
- (4) Technological changes in the industry in which the claimant has worked;
- (5) Cyclical economic conditions;
- (6) No job openings for the claimant;
- (7) The claimant not actually being hired to do work he or she could otherwise do; or
- (8) The claimant not wishing to do a particular type of work.

(d) *Administrative notice of job data.* The following sources are used when the Board determines that unskilled, sedentary, light and medium jobs exist in the national economy:

- (1) *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, published by the Department of Labor.
- (2) *County Business Patterns*, published by the Bureau of the Census.
- (3) *Census Reports*, also published by the Bureau of the Census.
- (4) *Occupational Analyses*, prepared for the Social Security Administration by various State employment agencies.
- (5) *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(e) *Use of vocational experts and other specialists.* If the issue in determining whether the claimant is disabled is whether his or her work skills can be used in other work and the specific occupations in which they can be used, or there is a similarly complex issue, the Board may use the services of a vocational expert or other specialist. The Board will decide whether to use a vocational expert or other specialist.

§ 220.132 Physical exertion requirements.

To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, jobs are classified as “sedentary”, “light”, “medium”, “heavy”, and “very heavy.” These terms have the

same meaning as they have in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, published by the Department of Labor. In making disability determinations the Board uses the following definitions:

(a) *Sedentary work.* Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and the other sedentary criteria are met.

(b) *Light work.* Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walking or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls. To be considered capable of performing a full or wide range of light work, the claimant must have the ability to do substantially all of these activities. If the claimant can do light work, the Board determines that he or she can also do sedentary work, unless there are additional limiting factors such as loss of fine dexterity or inability to sit for long periods of time.

(c) *Medium work.* Medium work involves lifting no more than 50 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds. If the claimant can do medium work, the Board determines that he or she can also do sedentary and light work.

(d) *Heavy work.* Heavy work involves lifting no more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 50 pounds. If the claimant can do heavy work, the Board determines that he or she can also do medium, light, and sedentary work.

(e) *Very heavy work.* Very heavy work involves lifting objects weighing more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing 50 pounds or more. If the claimant can

do very heavy work, the Board determines that he or she can also do heavy, medium, light and sedentary work.

§ 220.133 Skill requirements.

(a) *General.* To evaluate skills and to help determine the existence in the national economy of work the claimant is able to do, occupations are classified as unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled. In classifying these occupations, the Board uses materials published by the Department of Labor.

(b) *Unskilled work.* Unskilled work is work which needs little or no judgment to do simple duties that can be learned on the job in a short period of time (30 days). The job may or may not require considerable strength. A job is considered unskilled if the claimant can usually learn to do the job in 30 days, and little job training and judgment are needed. The claimant does not gain work skills by doing unskilled jobs. For example, jobs are considered unskilled if primary work duties are—

- (1) Handling;
- (2) Feeding;
- (3) Offbearing (placing or removing materials from machines which are automatic or operated by others); or
- (4) Machine tending.

(c) *Semi-skilled work.* Semi-skilled work is work which needs some skills but does not require doing the more complex work duties. A job may be classified as semi-skilled where coordination and dexterity are necessary, as when hand or feet must be moved quickly to do repetitive tasks. Semi-skilled jobs may require—

- (1) Alertness and close attention to watching machine processes;
- (2) Inspecting, testing, or otherwise looking for irregularities;
- (3) Tending or guarding equipment, property, materials, or persons against loss, damage, or injury; or
- (4) Other types of activities which are similarly less complex than skilled work but more complex than unskilled work.

(d) *Skilled work.* Skilled work requires qualifications in which a person uses judgment to determine the machine and manual operations to be performed in order to obtain the proper form, quality, or quantity of material to be produced. Skilled jobs may require—

- (1) Laying out work;
- (2) Estimating quality;
- (3) Determining suitability and needed quantities of materials;
- (4) Making precise measurements;
- (5) Reading blueprints or other specifications;
- (6) Making necessary computations or mechanical adjustments to control or regulate work; or
- (7) Dealing with people, facts, figures or abstract ideas at a high level of complexity.

(e) *Skills that can be used in other work (transferability)*—(1) *What the Board means by transferable skills.* The Board considers the claimant to have skills that can be used in other jobs, when the skilled or semi-skilled work activities the claimant did in past work can be used to meet the requirements of skilled or semi-skilled work activities of other jobs or kinds of work. This depends largely on the similarity of occupationally significant work activities among different jobs.

(2) *How the Board determines skills that can be transferred to other jobs.* Transferability is most probable and meaningful among jobs in which—

- (i) The same or a lesser degree of skill is required;
- (ii) The same or similar tools and machines are used; and
- (iii) The same or similar raw materials, products, processes, or services are involved.

(3) *Degrees of transferability.* There are degrees of transferability of skills ranging from very close similarities to remote and incidental similarities among jobs. A complete similarity of all three factors is not necessary for transferability. However, when skills are so specialized or have been acquired in such an isolated vocational setting (like many jobs in mining, agriculture, or fishing) that they are not readily usable in other industries, jobs, and work settings, they are considered not transferable.

§ 220.134 Medical-vocational guidelines in appendix 2 of this part.

(a) The Dictionary of Occupational Titles includes information about jobs (classified by their exertional and skill requirements) that exist in the national economy. Appendix 2 of this part