(2) *When qualified candidates have been assigned numerical scores under § 302.302(b).* (i) Preference eligibles having a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more, in the order of their augmented ratings, unless the list will be used to fill professional positions at the GS–9 level or above, or equivalent;

(ii) All other qualified candidates in the order of their augmented ratings. At each score, qualified candidates eligible for 10-point preference will be entered ahead of those eligible for 5-point preference or those not eligible for veteran preference, and those eligible for 5-point preference will be entered ahead of those not eligible for preference.

§ 302.304 Order of consideration.

(a) *Consideration of priority reemployment candidates.* An agency must consider all qualified candidates on its priority reemployment list before it may refer candidates from its reemployment list, if any, or regular employment list. When a qualified candidate is available on the priority list, the agency may appoint an individual who is not on the priority list or who has lower standing than others on that list *only* when necessary to obtain an employee for duties that cannot be taken over without undue interruption to the agency by an individual who is entitled to reemployment priority or has higher standing on the priority reemployment list than the one appointed. The agency must notify each individual on the priority reemployment list who is adversely affected by an appointment under this paragraph of the reasons for the exception and must further notify each such individual who is a preference eligible of his or her right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(b) *Consideration of other candidates.* Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(4) and (b)(5) of this section, an agency shall consider applicants on the reemployment and/or regular employment list who have been assigned eligible ratings for a given position in Order A, Order B, or Order C, as described in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this section. Order A must be used when the

agency has not established a reemployment list.

(1) *Order A.* (i) The name of each qualified preference eligible who has a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more and is entitled to 10-point preference under section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(ii) The name of each other qualified applicant in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(2) *Order B.* (i) The name of each qualified preference eligible who has a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more and is entitled to 10-point preference under section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, and whose name appears on the agency's reemployment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(ii) The name of each qualified preference eligible who has a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more and is entitled to 10-point preference under section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, and whose name appears on the agency's regular employment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(iii) The name of each other qualified applicant on the agency's reemployment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(iv) The name of each other qualified applicant on the agency's regular employment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(3) *Order C.* (i) The name of each qualified preference eligible who has a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more and is entitled to 10-point preference under section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, and whose name appears on the agency's reemployment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(ii) The name of each other qualified applicant on the agency's reemployment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(iii) The name of each qualified preference eligible who has a compensable, service-connected disability of 10 percent or more and is entitled to 10-point preference under section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, and whose name

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appears on the agency's regular employment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(iv) The name of each other qualified applicant on the agency's regular employment list, in the order of his/her numerical ranking.

(4) *Professional order.* An agency shall consider applicants who have been assigned eligible ratings for professional and scientific positions at the GS–9 level and above, or equivalent, in the following order:

(i) *Applicants on the agency's reemployment list, if any.* If numerical scores have been assigned, the applicants will be considered in the order of their augmented scores. If numerical scores have not been assigned, all preference eligibles will be considered together regardless of the type of preference, followed by all other priority reemployment candidates.

(ii) *Applicants on the agency's regular employment list.* If numerical scores have been assigned, the applicants will be considered in the order of their augmented scores. If numerical scores have not been assigned, all preference eligibles will be considered together regardless of the type of preference, followed by all other candidates.

(5) *Unranked order.* When numerical scores are not assigned, the agency may consider applicants who have received eligible ratings for positions not covered by paragraph (b)(4) of this section in either of the following orders:

(i) *By preference status.* Under this method, preference eligibles having a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more are considered first, followed, second, by other 10-point preference eligibles, third, by 5-point preference eligibles, and, last, by nonpreference eligibles. Within each category, applicants from the reemployment list will be placed ahead of applicants from the regular employment list.

(ii) *By reemployment/regular list status.* Under this method, all applicants on the reemployment list are considered before applicants on the regular employment list. On each list, preference eligibles having a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more are considered first, followed, second, by other 10-point preference

eligibles, third, by 5-point preference eligibles, and, last, by nonpreference eligibles.

Subpart D—Selection and Appointment; Reappointment; and Qualifications for Promotion

§ 302.401 Selection and appointment.

(a) *Selection.* When making an appointment from a priority reemployment, reemployment, or regular list on which candidates have not received numerical scores, an agency must make its selection from the highest available preference category, as long as at least three candidates remain in that group. When fewer than three candidates remain in the highest category, consideration may be expanded to include the next category. When making an appointment from a list on which candidates have received numerical scores, the agency must make its selection for each vacancy from not more than the highest three names available for appointment in the order provided in § 302.304. Under either method, an agency is not required to—

(1) Accord an applicant on its priority reemployment or reemployment list the preference consideration required by § 302.304 if the list on which the applicant's name appears does not contain the names of at least three preference eligibles; or

(2) Consider an applicant who has previously been considered three times or a preference eligible if consideration of his/her name has been discontinued for the position as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Passing over a preference applicant.* When an agency, in making an appointment as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, passes over the name of a preference eligible who is entitled to priority consideration under § 302.304 and selects a nonpreference eligible, it shall record its reasons for so doing, and shall furnish a copy of those reasons to the preference eligible or his/her representative on request. An agency may discontinue consideration of the name of a preference eligible for a

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