

Part 4—Schedule for Rating Disabilities

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155.

Source: 29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Policy in Rating

4.1	Essentials of evaluative rating	4.1-1
4.2	Interpretation of examination reports.....	4.2-1
4.3	Resolution of reasonable doubt.....	4.3-1
4.6	Evaluation of evidence.....	4.6-1
4.7	Higher of two evaluations.....	4.7-1
4.9	Congenital or developmental defects.....	4.9-1
4.10	Functional impairment.....	4.10-1
4.13	Effect of change of diagnosis.....	4.13-1
4.14	Avoidance of pyramiding	4.14-1
4.15	Total disability ratings	4.15-1
4.16	Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual.....	4.16-1
4.17	Total disability ratings for pension based on unemployability and age of the individual	4.17-1
4.17a	Misconduct etiology.....	4.17a-1
4.18	Unemployability	4.18-1
4.19	Age in service-connected claims	4.19-1
4.20	Analogous ratings	4.20-1
4.21	Application of rating schedule	4.21-1
4.22	Rating of disabilities aggravated by active service.....	4.22-1
4.23	Attitude of rating officers.....	4.23-1
4.24	Correspondence.....	4.24-1
4.25	Combined ratings table	4.25-1
4.26	Bilateral factor	4.26-1
4.27	Use of diagnostic code numbers	4.27-1
4.28	Prestabilization rating from date of discharge from service	4.28-1
4.29	Ratings for service-connected disabilities requiring hospital treatment or observation	4.29-1
4.30	Convalescent ratings	4.30-1
4.31	A no-percent rating	4.31-1

§4.1 Essentials of evaluative rating.

This rating schedule is primarily a guide in the evaluation of disability resulting from all types of diseases and injuries encountered as a result of or incident to military service. The

percentage ratings represent as far as can practicably be determined the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries and their residual conditions in civil occupations. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are considered adequate to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses proportionate to the severity of the several grades of disability. For the application of this schedule, accurate and fully descriptive medical examinations are required, with emphasis upon the limitation of activity imposed by the disabling condition. Over a period of many years, a veteran's disability claim may require reratings in accordance with changes in laws, medical knowledge and his or her physical or mental condition. It is thus essential, both in the examination and in the evaluation of disability, that each disability be viewed in relation to its history.

[41 FR 11292, Mar. 18, 1976]