

# How the VA Rates Hearing Loss

Regulatory Source: 38 CFR § 4.85 – Diagnostic Codes 6100

VA Source: <https://ecfr.gov>

## Summary:

VA rates hearing loss based strictly on audiometric testing (pure tone thresholds) and speech discrimination using the Maryland CNC word list. Even if hearing issues impact daily life, compensation depends on how results match the numeric formula.

## VA Rating Table (Based on VA Audiogram Results):

Rating	Explanation
0%	Documented hearing loss but does not meet the thresholds set by VA's audiometric testing. Recognized without compensation.
10%–20%	Mild to moderate hearing loss confirmed by VA audiogram and Maryland CNC speech discrimination testing. Impact on communication in quiet or noisy environments.
30%–50%	Moderate to severe hearing loss, poor word recognition scores, and communication breakdown in normal speech environments. Significant interference with work or social function.
60%–100%	Profound bilateral hearing loss. Requires hearing aids or assistive devices. May include near-total speech discrimination impairment.

## Required Evidence:

- Audiogram using pure tone thresholds (500–4000 Hz) by VA or certified examiner
- Speech discrimination scores using Maryland CNC word test
- Documentation of service-related noise exposure (combat, aircraft, artillery, etc.)
- Buddy statements or work history supporting exposure
- Optional: ENT specialist opinion linking condition to service

## Pro Tip:

You must meet VA's specific numeric thresholds to get a rating, even if your hearing is clearly impaired. Tinnitus and hearing loss must be filed separately but often occur together.