

How the VA Rates Tinnitus (Secondary to TBI or Hearing Loss)

Regulatory Source: 38 CFR § 4.87 – Diagnostic Code 6260

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

Summary:

Tinnitus is rated at 10% regardless of severity or which ear is affected. However, it can be claimed as secondary to traumatic brain injury (TBI), hearing loss, or noise-induced injuries. This often pairs with other neurological or auditory claims.

VA Rating Table:

Rating	Explanation
10%	Persistent tinnitus in one or both ears. This is the only schedular rating available regardless of severity or cause.

Required Evidence:

- Diagnosis of tinnitus (VA or audiologist exam)
- Service-connected hearing loss or TBI diagnosis
- Statements about ringing, buzzing, or sound distortion
- Link between head injury or exposure to acoustic trauma and tinnitus onset
- C&P; exam or specialist opinion tying tinnitus to primary condition

Pro Tip:

You can't receive multiple ratings for tinnitus, but you can link it to another condition like TBI or hearing loss to support a stronger claim. Document when it started and how it affects sleep or focus.