



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
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To: Workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, service companies, claim closure contractors, and attorneys

Re: Using tables to convert percentage(s) of hearing loss to percent of whole person

OAR 436-035-0250 provides direction on computing the value of hearing loss. When hearing loss is the only impairment in the claim, OAR 436-035-0011(4) requires that it be awarded in percentage increments of hundredths.

OAR 436-035-0255 includes tables for converting hearing loss to percent of whole person. To use these conversion tables, you must round hearing loss impairment. Do not round hearing impairment **unless** there are multiple losses (in addition to loss in one or both ears) due to the compensable injury **and** hearing impairment is being combined with the losses in other body parts or systems. If you use these tables for hearing loss calculations when such combining is not required, rounding errors and miscalculation of the value of a worker's hearing loss may result.

The division will clarify this issue in the Disability Rating Standards (OAR 436-035) at the next opportunity. In the interim, if you have questions about this aspect of calculating hearing loss, you may contact Carol Helton, (503) 947-7526, carol.e.helton@state.or.us, or Debbie Hughes, (503) 947-7752, debra.e.hughes@state.or.us.

Thank you.

John L. Shilts, Administrator
Workers' Compensation Division

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