

Chapter 21

Paired Organs Policy

INTRODUCTION

The paired organs policy recognises that impairment of the function of only one of a pair of organs can place greater importance on the proper function of the other organ, impairment of which is therefore more disabling than it would otherwise have been.

The policy is to be applied only if the *maximum possible* impairment from the loss of both organs is more than double the *maximum possible* impairment from the loss of one organ; *and* the accepted conditions impair the function of only one organ of a pair. Thus it is applied to hearing, vision, renal function, and the function of testes, ovaries, and adrenals. It is not to be applied to limbs, since the loss of functional unity of the limbs has been allowed for in the impairment ratings of Chapter 3. Chapter 21 is not to be used for hearing loss, as the steps for applying the paired organs policy to hearing loss are contained in Chapter 7 (Ear, Nose, and Throat Impairment).

Applying the paired organs policy

Follow the steps below to calculate the degree of impairment under the paired organs policy.

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|-------------------------|--|
| STEP
1 | Multiply by 2 the impairment rating for the impairment due to the accepted condition to which the paired organs policy applies. |
| STEP
2 | Find the total impairment rating for the relevant paired organs. |
| STEP
3 | Compare the ratings obtained in Steps 1 and 2. Take the lesser rating. This is the final impairment rating for the paired organ. |

Example

A veteran has a combined monocular assessment of 20 points for an accepted condition of the left eye, and a binocular impairment rating of 35. In Step 1 the 20 points are multiplied by two to get 40 points. This is compared with the binocular impairment rating, and the lesser taken. The veteran therefore gets 35 points after application of the paired organs policy, instead of the 20 points which would have been given if the policy had not applied.