

**Operational
Policy**

Section

~~Disabilities~~ Occupational Diseases

Subject

Tinnitus, ~~Post-On/After~~ January 2, 1990-, up to October 6, 2026

Policy

Tinnitus, ~~accompanied by~~ is a symptom of work-related noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), ~~in workers continuously exposed~~ when it is determined to ~~hazardous noise is an~~ be related to occupational ~~disease (under s.2(1) and s.15 of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act)~~ which is peculiar to and characteristic of a process, trade or occupation involving exposure to hazardous noise in Ontario NIHL.

Guidelines

Definition

Tinnitus ~~is defined~~ means a symptom typically experienced as ~~the perception a sensation~~ of sound (such as a ringing, whistling, buzzing, whooshing, or ~~hissing~~) in the absence of an acoustic stimulus humming.

Entitlement

~~Claims~~ Entitlement for tinnitus ~~are eligible for compensation under~~ is considered when all of the following circumstances are met:

- there is an accepted claim for occupational noise-induced hearing loss;

~~and~~

- there is a clear and adequate history of 2 or more years of continuous and severe tinnitus, and

~~and~~

- the condition has been confirmed by a specialist with facilities for testing tinnitus.

Permanent impairment

Permanent impairment ~~from for~~ NIHL-related tinnitus is assessed using the prescribed rating schedule ~~prescribed in section 18(1), O.Reg 175/98. According~~ the American Medical Association Guides to the ~~prescribed rating schedule,~~ Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Third Edition (Revised) (AMA Guides). The degree of permanent impairment for NIHL-related tinnitus is ~~not measurable, and therefore, the physician "should assign a degree of impairment that is based on severity and importance, and is consistent with established values." Rated at 2%. The~~ permanent impairment of 2% for tinnitus is judged to be consistent with established values. Permanent impairment ratings for NIHL and hearing loss and NIHL-related tinnitus are ~~added~~ combined using the AMA ~~combined values chart.~~ Guides Combined Values Chart to calculate the non-economic loss benefit.

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Subject

Tinnitus, ~~Post-On/After~~ January 2, 1990-, [up to October 6, 2026](#)**Application date**

This policy applies to all ~~claims with an accident date of~~ [decisions for existing requests for entitlement claimed before October 7, 2026, for all accidents occurring on or after January 2, 1990-, or after. The accident date for tinnitus is the date of first documented evidence for severe, continuous tinnitus.](#)

~~For Tinnitus, Pre-January, 1990, see 16-01-07, Tinnitus, pre-January 2, 1990.~~

Document ~~History~~ [history](#)

This document replaces [16-01-08 dated October 12, 2004.](#)

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References**Legislative ~~Authority~~ [authority](#)**

Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997-, ~~as amended~~
Sections 2(1), 15(1), ~~15(2), 46(1), 47,~~ 119(1)

~~O.Reg~~

[Ontario Regulation](#) 175/98-, ~~section~~
[Section](#) 18

Minute

~~Board of Directors~~

~~#8(XV), June 10, 2004, Page 6619~~

[Workers' Compensation Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario 1990](#)
[Sections 1\(1\), 42, 73, 134](#)

[Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990, Regulation 1102](#)
[Section 15\(1\)](#)

Approval