



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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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 visual loss to percent of whole person

OAR 436-035-0260 provides direction on computing the value of visual loss. When visual loss is the only impairment in the claim, OAR 436-035-0011(4) requires that it be awarded in percentage increments of hundredths.

OAR 436-035-0265 includes tables for converting visual loss to percent of whole person. To use these conversion tables, you must round vision loss impairment. Do not round visual impairment **unless** there are multiple losses (in addition to loss in one or both eyes) due to the compensable injury **and** vision impairment is being combined with the losses in other body parts or systems. If you use these tables for visual loss calculations when such combining is not required, rounding errors and miscalculation of the value of a worker's vision 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 visual 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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