

Scheduled and non-scheduled conditions

Limb amputation cases

A certificate of stump measurement issued by an Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (ALAC) may be available, but medical boards usually make their own stump measurements. The level of amputation should be indicated as accurately as possible.

The first points of measurement are:

1	Upper	The tip of the acromion with the stump pendant
2	Forearm	The tip of the olecranon, which is best found when the forearm or stump is flexed to a right angle
3	Above knee	The tip of the great trochanter
4	Below knee	The antero-medial edge of the upper articular surface of the tibia when the knee is flexed

The second point of measurement is in all cases:

Over the end of the bone as palpated through the skin or scar tissue. In a below knee case this will be the end of the tibia and not the end of the fibula. The measurement will be taken on the inner aspect of the stump and not, as in above knee amputations, on the outer aspect.

Assessment

The prescribed degrees of incapacity set out in the scheduled assessments (see Appendix 1) relate to stabilised degrees of incapacity and it may be necessary for a medical board to modify the assessment where an artificial limb is to be worn, but has not yet been fitted.

UK Medical Appeal Tribunals have generally accepted that a scheduled assessment is not appropriate unless a satisfactory artificial limb has been fitted, and that the assessment should be provisional and at a higher rate than the scheduled degree until the claimant has been fitted with an artificial limb and has been allowed a reasonable time to get used to wearing it.