

Ankyloses in optimum positions

In assessing the incapacity resulting from the complete fixation of joints, consideration should be given to the position in which the joint is fixed. These are the usually accepted optimum positions for ankylosed joints:

1	Shoulder	Arm abducted to about 20 degrees with the elbow slightly in front of the body and with free movement of the shoulder girdle
2	Elbow	The angle between humerus and forearm should be rather more than a right angle, at about 110 degrees. The forearm should be supinated, so that the palm is slightly upwards
3	Wrist	In the neutral position, i.e. in line with the forearm and with slight or no loss of pronation or supination
4	Hip	Thigh flexed 10 degrees with a slight abduction and slight external rotation
5	Knee	In 5 degrees of flexion
6	Ankle	5-10 degrees plantar flexion of the foot

The table below gives the type of assessment for ankyloses in the optimum position which has been given by UK Medical Appeal Tribunals. It is, however, for the medical board to determine, in accordance with the statutory provisions, the appropriate assessment in the circumstances of the individual customer.

Area	Per cent
Shoulder	40
Elbow	40
Wrist	30
Hip	60
Knee	30
Ankle	20