



Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

Table 2 – Upper Limb Function

Introduction to Table 2

- Table 2 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment when performing activities requiring the use of hands or arms.
- The diagnosis of the condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a report from the person's treating doctor;
 - a report from a medical specialist confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with upper limb impairment (e.g. arthritis or other condition affecting upper limb joints, paralysis or loss of strength or sensation resulting from stroke or other brain or nerve injury, cerebral palsy or other condition affecting upper limb coordination, inflammation or injury of the muscles or tendons of the upper limbs, amputation or absence of whole or part of upper limb);
 - a report from an allied health practitioner (e.g. physiotherapist, occupational therapist or exercise physiologist) confirming the functional impact;
 - results of diagnostic tests (e.g. X-Rays or other imagery);
 - results of physical tests or assessments.
- For the purposes of this Table upper limbs extend from the shoulder to the fingers.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact on activities using hands or arms.</i></p> <p>(1) The person can pick up, handle, manipulate and use most objects encountered on a daily basis without difficulty.</p>
5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact on activities using hands or arms.</i></p> <p>(1) The person can manage most daily activities requiring the use of the hands and arms, but has some difficulty with most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) picking up heavier objects (e.g. a 2 litre carton of liquid or carrying a full shopping bag); (b) handling very small objects (e.g. coins); (c) doing up buttons; (d) reaching up or out to pick up objects.

10	<p><i>There is a moderate functional impact on activities using hands or arms.</i></p> <p>(1) The person has difficulty with most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) picking up a 1 litre carton full of liquid; (b) picking up a light but bulky object requiring the use of 2 hands together (e.g. a cardboard box); (c) holding and using a pen or pencil; (d) doing up buttons or tying shoelaces; (e) using a standard computer keyboard; (f) unscrewing a lid on a soft-drink bottle.
20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact on activities using hands or arms.</i></p> <p>(1) Most of the following apply to the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has limited movement or coordination in both arms or both hands, or has an amputation rendering a hand or arm non-functional; (b) the person has severe difficulty handling, moving or carrying most objects even when using or wearing any prosthesis or assistive device that they have and usually use; (c) the person has difficulty using a computer keyboard despite appropriate adaptations; (d) the person has severe difficulty using a pen or pencil; (e) the person has severe difficulty turning the pages of a book without assistance.
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact on activities using hands or arms.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is unable to perform any activities requiring the use of both hands or both arms.</p>