

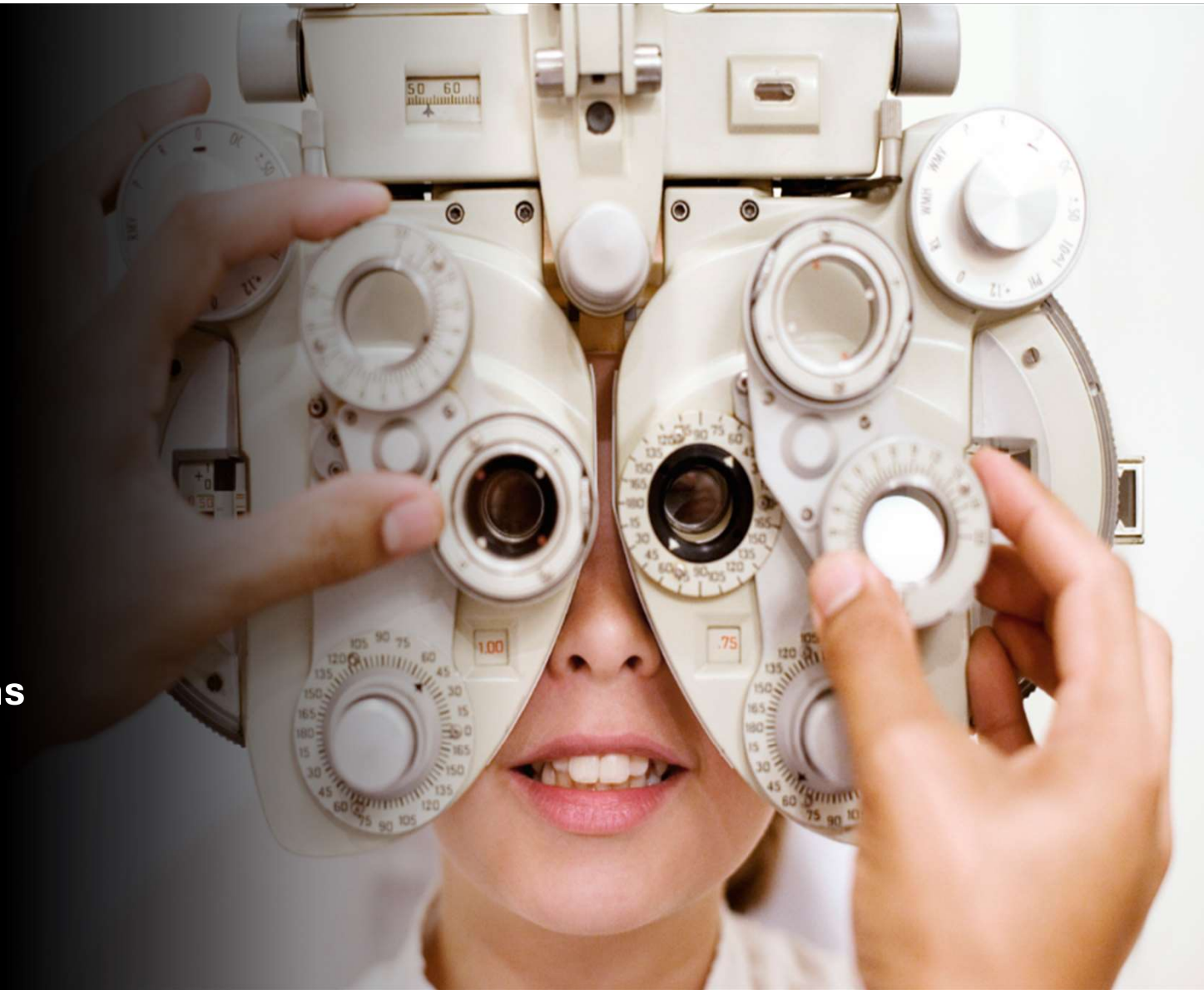


# Beyond the Eye Chart

Functional  
Limitations of  
Vision  
Impairments in  
the Workplace

# What are we going to discuss

- How vision is evaluated on an RFC
- How severe vision impairments may affect someone's ability to work
- How vision limitations are considered in evaluating the ability to perform work



# RFC VISUAL LIMITATIONS

## Visual Limitations

\*Does the individual have visual limitations?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Yet Answered

\*Rate the individual's visual limitations

|                  | Unlimited             | Limited Left          | Limited Right         | Limited Both          | Not Yet Answered                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Near acuity      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Far acuity       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Depth perception | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Accommodation    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Color vision     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Field of vision  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

Explain visual limitations and how and why the evidence supports your conclusions. Cite specific facts upon which your conclusions are based. (optional)

If applicable, indicate if the individual is unable to work with rather large objects due to visual limitations.

(1,000 characters maximum)

Characters: 0/1000

# GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

The extent of a person's visual impairment cannot be predicted based on their visual acuity or visual fields alone because there is tremendous variability in the degree of functional loss for persons with the same visual acuity or visual field loss

Each case must be evaluated on its own merits, considering all of the evidence that is presented in file.



These are **NOT** rules  
**ONLY** the starting  
point



# Near Vision

Near vision is clarity of vision at 20 inches or less

**Jaeger Chart**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>No. 1<br/>.37 M</p> <p><small>The general history of the Christian era, the progress of Rome comprehended the liberal part of the world, and the most illustrious portion of mankind. The progress of the Christian era, the progress of Rome comprehended the liberal part of the world, and the most illustrious portion of mankind. The progress of the Christian era, the progress of Rome comprehended the liberal part of the world, and the most illustrious portion of mankind.</small></p>                              | <p>No. 7<br/>1.50 M</p> <p>The experience of Augustus added weight to these salutary reflections, and effectually convinced him that, by the prudent vigour of his counsels, it would be easy to secure every concession which the safety or the dignity of Rome</p> |
| <p>No. 2<br/>.50 M</p> <p><small>and history. The progress of a free constitution was preserved with great reverence. The Roman senate appeared a power that was not to be resisted, and descended on the subjects of the empire with the same benignity as the sun on the plants. The progress of a free constitution was preserved with great reverence. The Roman senate appeared a power that was not to be resisted, and descended on the subjects of the empire with the same benignity as the sun on the plants.</small></p> | <p>No. 8<br/>1.75 M</p> <p>might require from the most formidable barbarians. Instead of exposing his person and his legions to the arrows of the Parthians, he obtained, by an honorable</p>                                                                        |
| <p>No. 3<br/>.62 M</p> <p><small>Hadrian, and the two Antonines. It is the design of this and of the two succeeding chapters, to describe the prosperous condition of their empire; and afterwards, from the death of Marcus Antoninus, to deduce the most important circumstances of its decline and fall: a revolution which will ever be remembered, and is still felt by the nations of the earth.</small></p>                                                                                                                  | <p>No. 9<br/>2.00 M</p> <p>treaty, the restitution of the standards and prisoners which had been taken in the defeat of Crassus. His generals, in the early part of his reign,</p>                                                                                   |
| <p>No. 4<br/>.75 M</p> <p><small>The principal conquests of the Romans were achieved under the republic; and the emperors, for the most part, were satisfied with the policy of the senate, the active of people. The seven first centuries we</small></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>No. 10<br/>2.25 M</p> <p>attempted the reduction of Aethiopia and Arabia</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      |

but it was reserved for Augustus the whole earth, and to introduce inclined to peace by his temper

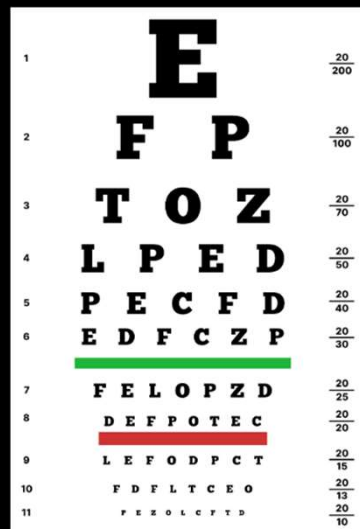
that Rome, in her present ex- fear from the chance of arms: the undertaking became even and the possession more pre

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>J1 - J3 (20/20 – 20/40)</b>   | <b>Non-Severe</b>   |
| <b>J4 –J6 (20/50 – 20/70)</b>    | <b>Frequently</b>   |
| <b>J7 – J11 (20/80 – 20/100)</b> | <b>Occasionally</b> |



# Far Vision

Far vision is clarity of vision at 20 feet or more



20/40 or better

Non-severe

20/50 – 20/70

Frequently

20/80 – 20/100

Occasionally

20/200

Listing level

# What is the most a person with visual acuity limitations can do?

## 20/40 or better

Vision is sufficient to perform clerical work including reading normal sized print and can work with any size object.

## 20/50 – 20/70

Vision is sufficient to perform a wide variety of tasks including work requiring occasional reading, working with medium to large objects and allows for the ability to avoid workplace hazards. However, jobs requiring very fine vision or those requiring prolonged visual work could be problematic like tying threads or reading columns.

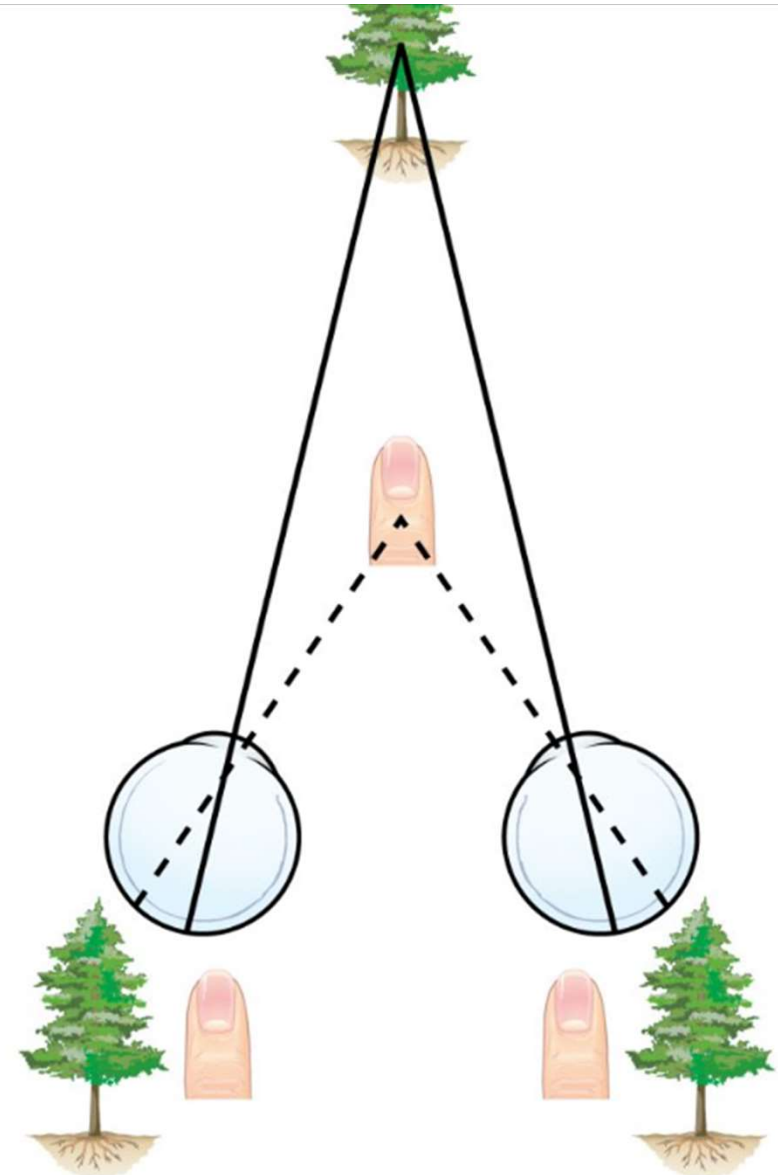
## 20/80 – 20/100

Vision is sufficient to work with large objects and allows for the ability to avoid workplace hazards but would have difficulty reading normal print and performing jobs requiring fine discrimination

# Depth Perception

Depth perception is the ability to perceive the world in three dimensions and also the ability to judge how far away people or objects are from you.

In order to have depth perception, you need to have binocular vision, which means you have equal vision in both eyes. Those individuals with monocular vision may lack strong depth perception.





## What is the most that an individual with depth perception limitations can do?

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Normal vision in better seeing eye but vision is reduced in worse eye

20/40 or better    Non-severe

20/50 – 20/70    Frequently

20/80 – 20/100    Occasionally

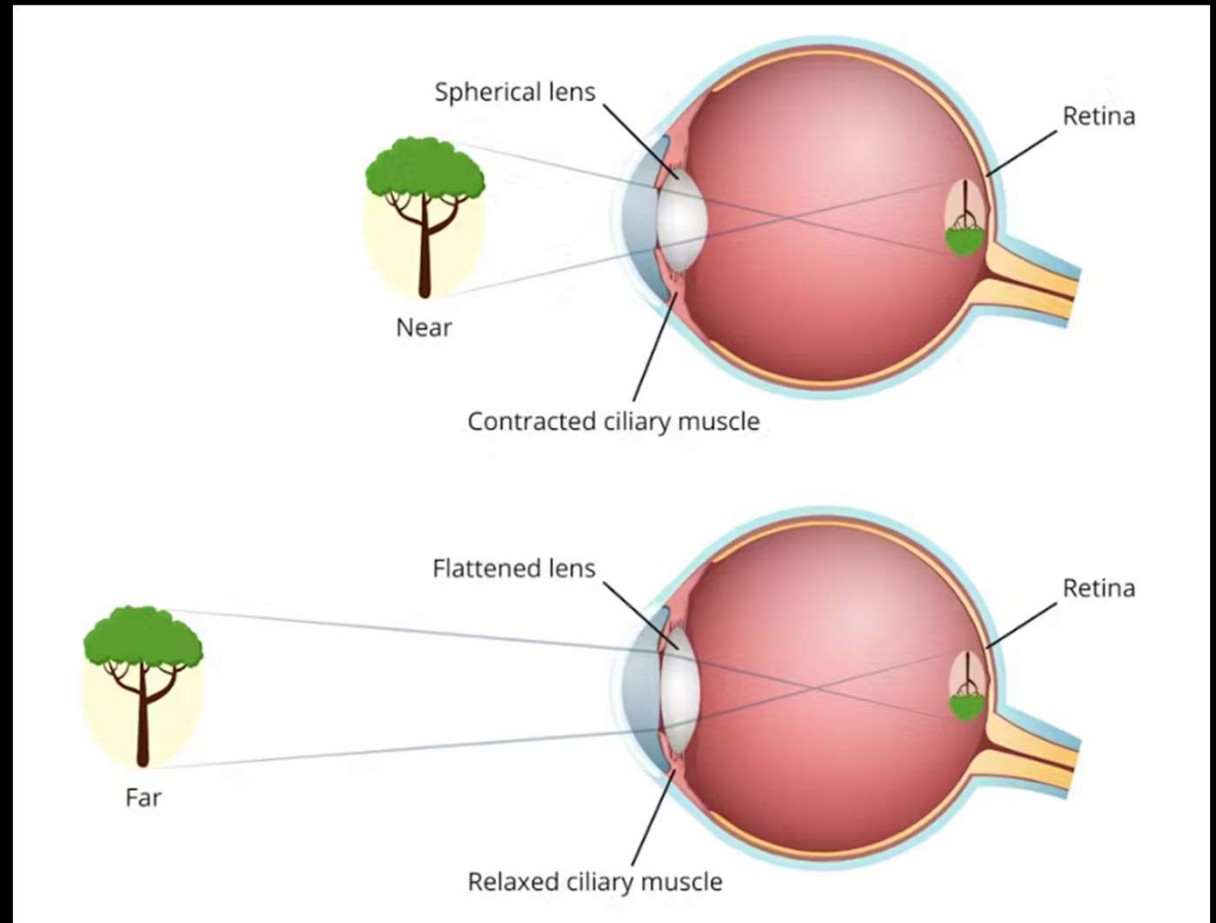
20/200 or worse    Never

A person who has very limited depth perception may not be able to work on a construction site, drive a forklift in a warehouse or drive a commercial vehicle. They can read normal print and use a computer and navigate a typical office setting. They would have the ability to work with any sized objects and can avoid normal workplace hazards.

## Accommodation

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Accommodation is the adjustment of the lens of the eye to bring an object into sharp focus. The eye's ability to adjust optical power in order to maintain a clear image or focus on objects at various distances.



## What is the most an individual with accommodation limitations can do?



Those with severe accommodative dysfunction would have difficulty with prolonged reading and completing work that requires frequent shifting of near vision to/from far vision. They are capable of work requiring occasional reading, handling and working with moderate to large objects and are able to avoid normal workplace hazards. They would have difficulty shifting their gaze from far away to words on a document or screen or adjusting small parts that require precision gauges.

## Color Vision

Color vision is the ability to identify and distinguish colors.

Color vision is only limited if there is evidence of a color vision deficiency.



NORMAL VISION



DEUTERANOMALY



PROTANOPIA



TRITANOPIA





## **What is the most that an individual with color vision limitations can do?**

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**If someone is able to see only certain colors, they are able to perform work that requires color vision frequently or occasionally, depending upon the severity.**

**If someone is unable to see all color, they would not be able to perform work that required color vision**

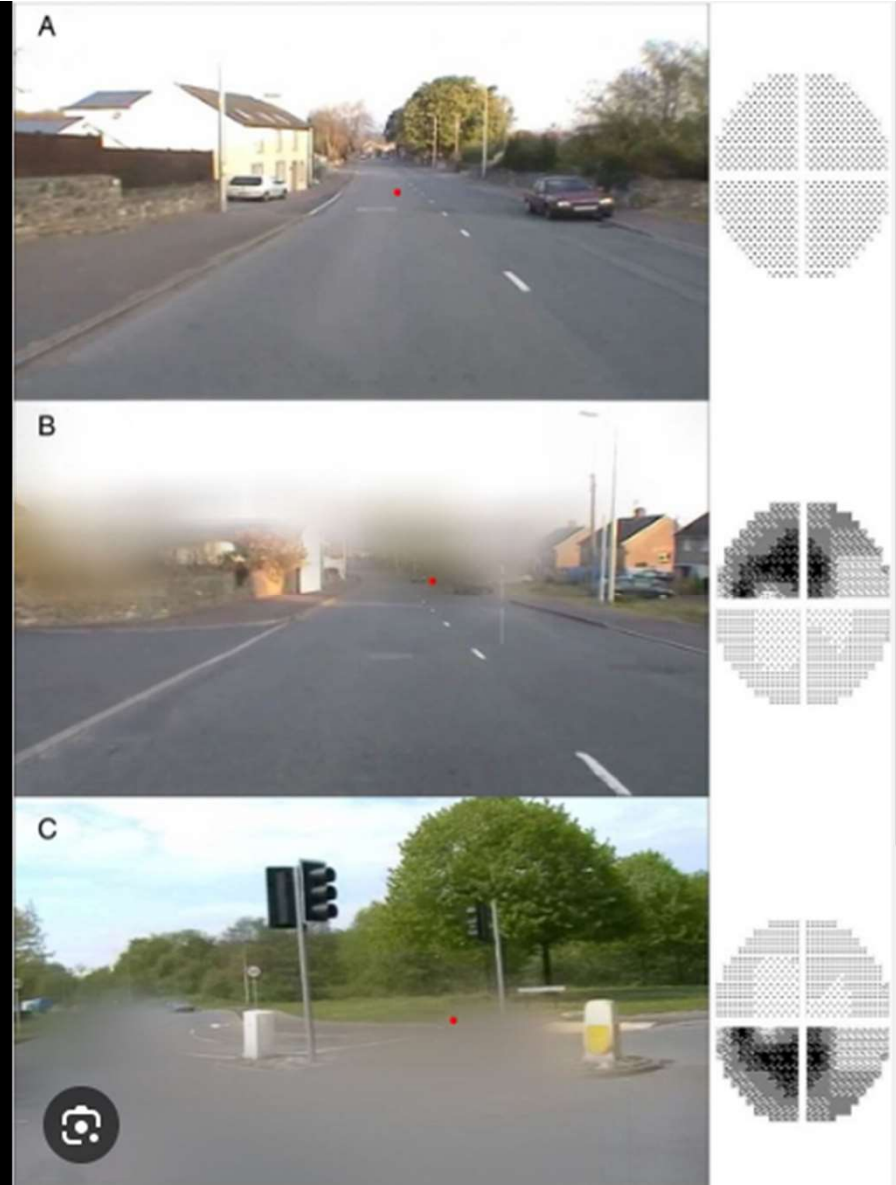
**A person with severely limited color vision may have difficulty performing work where identifying color is essential to the job but they would have the ability to work with any sized objects, follow written instructions and avoid ordinary hazards in the workplace.**

# Field of Vision

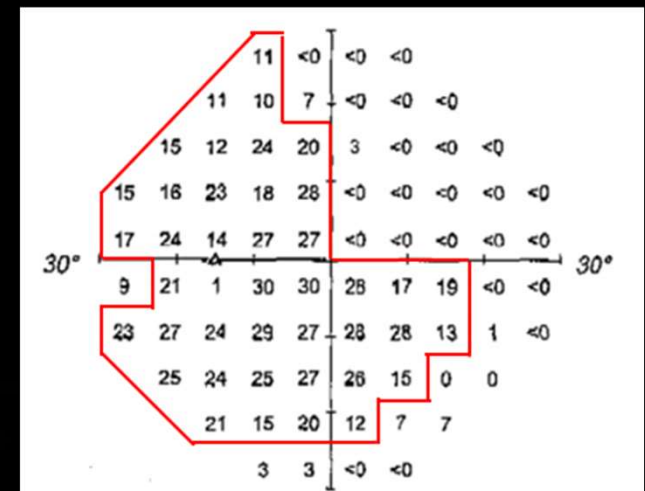
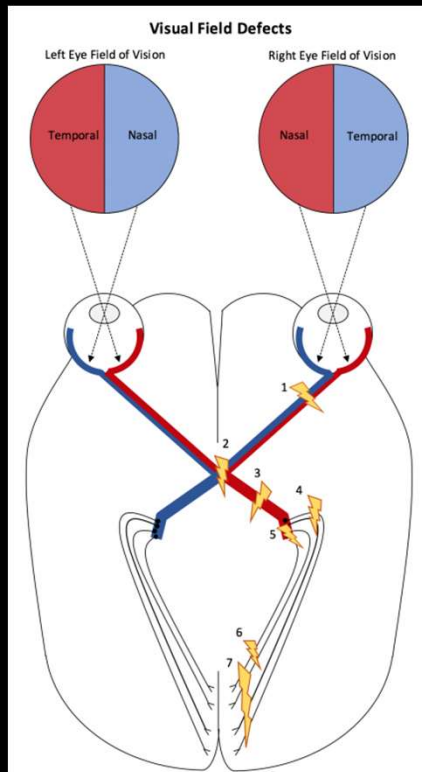
Field of vision is the entire area a person can see while their eyes are fixed on a given point.

When the visual pathway from the eyes to the brain is damaged or impaired, there is a reduction or absence of vision in that area. This is referred to as visual field loss.

The location and severity of the visual field loss play a critical role in determining an individual's residual functional capacity.



# Field of Vision

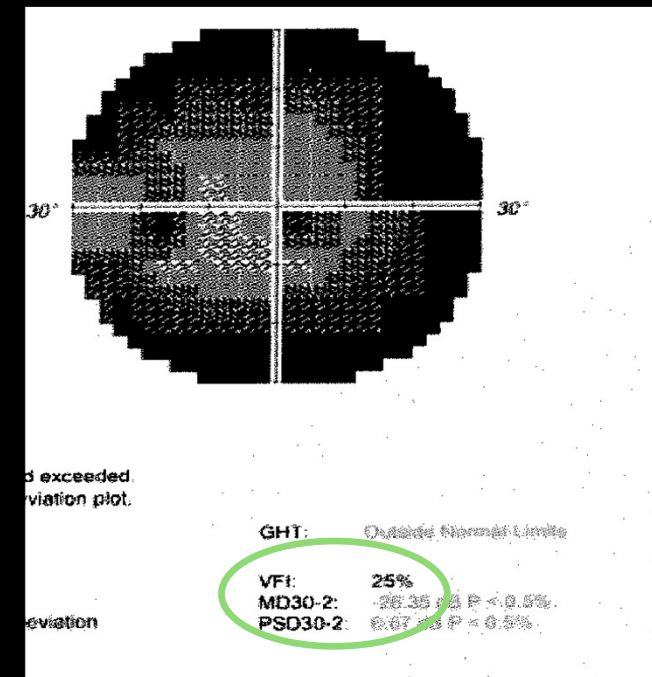
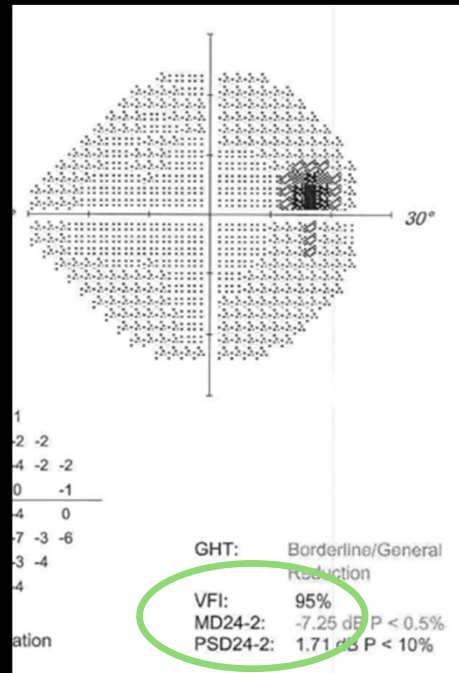


**Pseudoisopter**

# Field of Vision

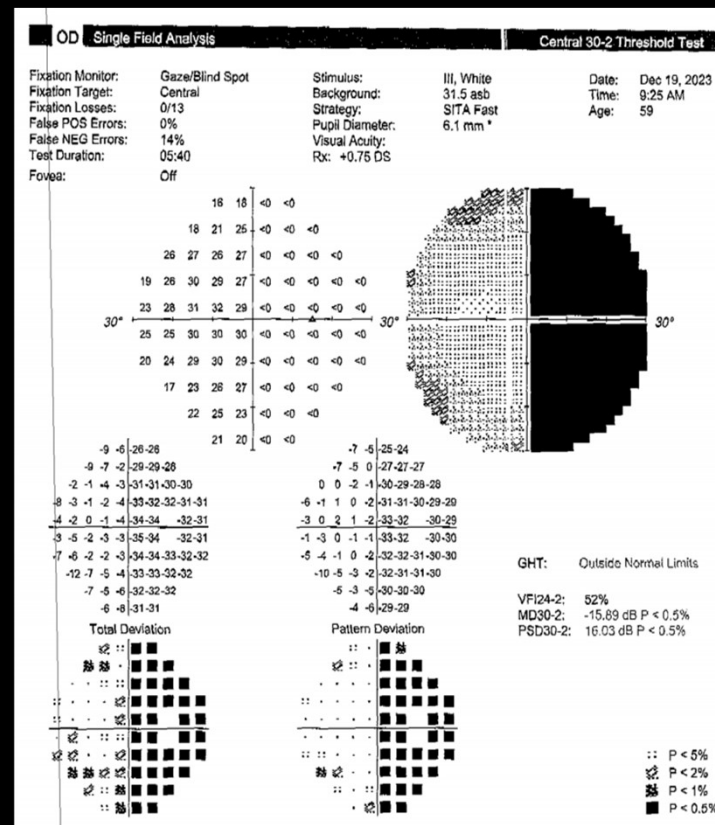
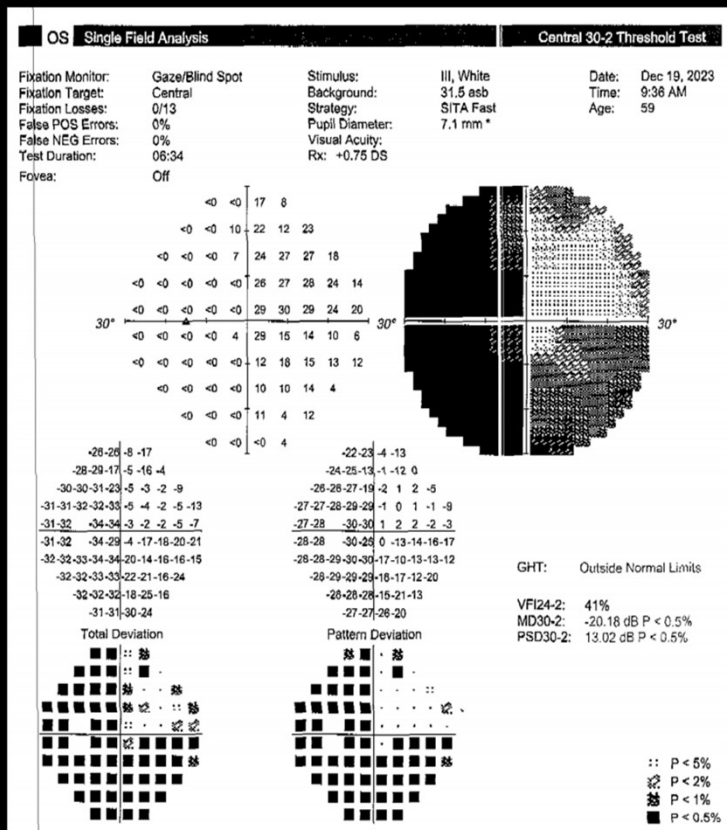
## VFI on Visual Fields Test

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50% +    | Non-severe                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 35 – 49% | Frequently, can avoid normal hazards in the workplace and work with any sized object                                                                                                     |
| 25 – 40% | Occasionally, may have difficulty working with small objects, can work with large objects, can avoid hazards in the workplace, no commercial driving or working with dangerous machinery |
| 21 – 25% | May have difficulty avoiding normal hazards in the workplace                                                                                                                             |



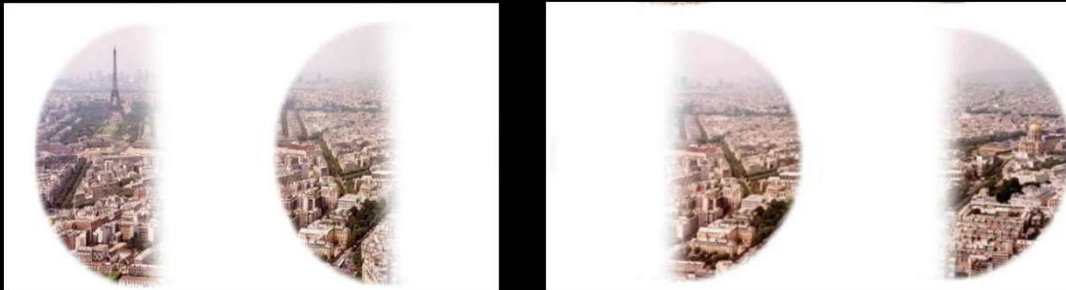
**This is guidance and NOT a rule!**

# What would be the most that this individual could do with this visual field loss?



Vision is sufficient to avoid normal hazards in the workplace and to work with large objects but may have difficulty working with small objects. Should avoid commercial driving and working with dangerous machinery.

## What would be the most that an individual could do with this type of visual field loss?



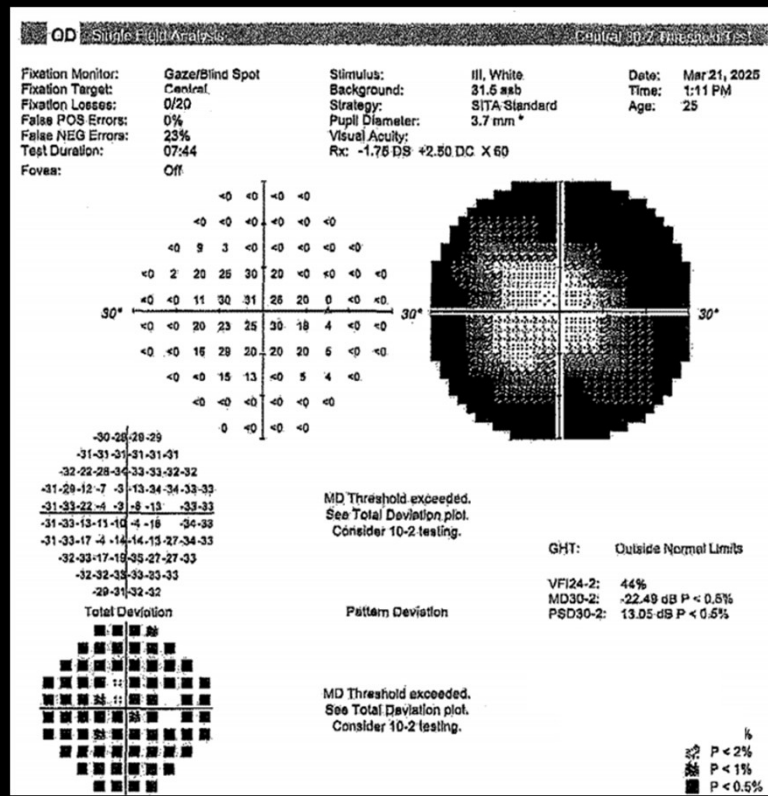
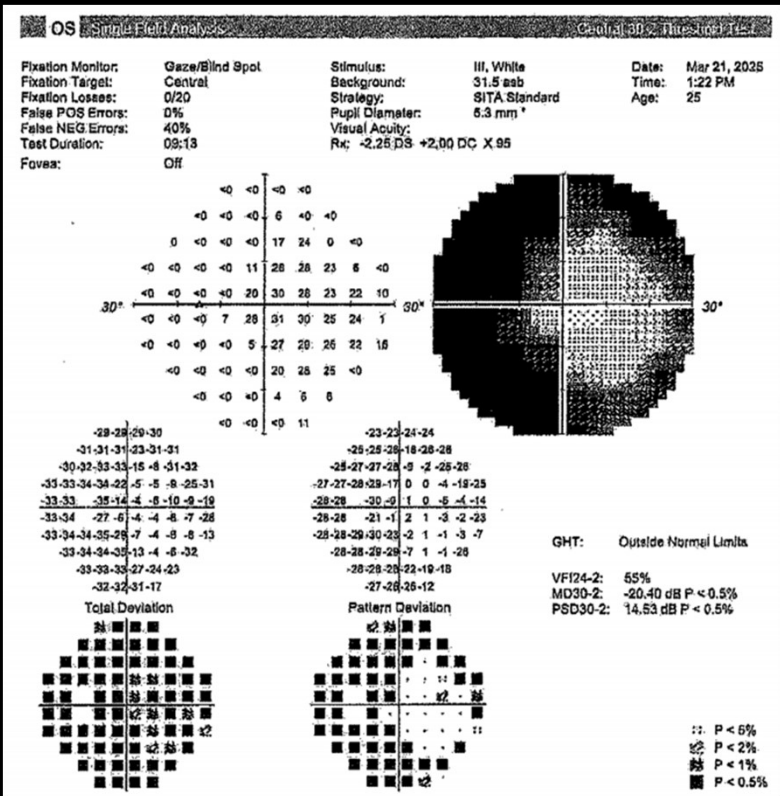
Right or Left Homonymous Hemianopsia



Binasal Hemianopsia

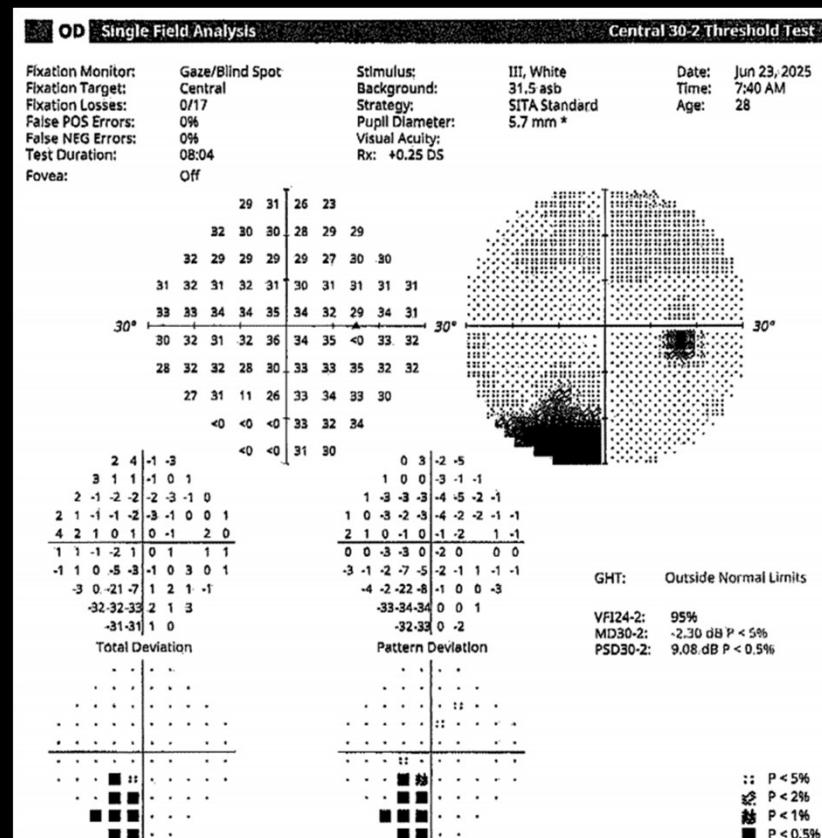
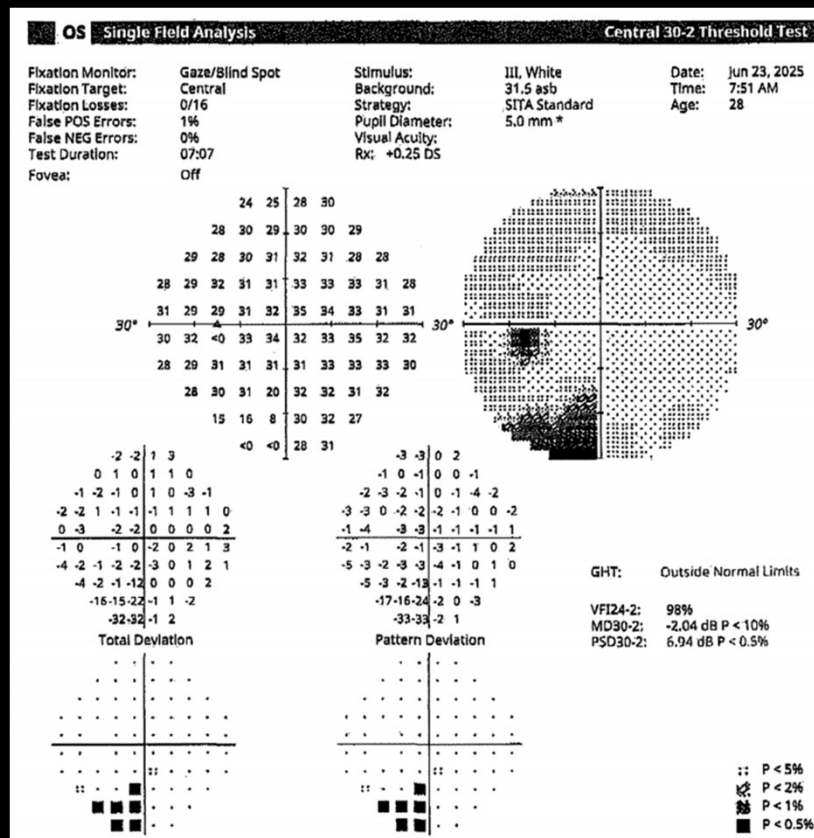
**Vision is sufficient to avoid normal hazards in the workplace and to work with large objects. May have difficulty working with small objects and reading. Vision loss precludes driving and working on an assembly line.**

## What would be the most that this individual could do with this visual field loss?



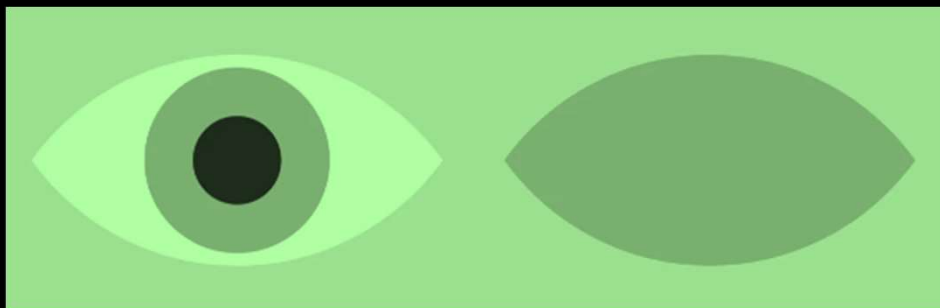
**Vision would not be sufficient to avoid normal workplace hazards like boxes on the floor, doors ajar or approaching people or vehicles.**

What would be the most that this individual could do with this visual field loss?



Vision is sufficient to work with any size object and avoid normal hazards in the workplace. Visual field loss is non-severe.

## Monocular Vision



BCVA OD 20/20, OS NLP

VF OD full to confrontation,  
OS severely limited VF

As acuity in the claimant's better eye is well within normal limits, neither far nor near acuity are limited. Claimant's acuity is sufficient to perform clerical work (i.e. reading normal sized print, typing, filing or using a computer). Claimant retains sufficient visual acuity to handle and work with any size but would have difficulty performing work requiring good depth perception such as driving, work at unprotected heights or with hazardous machinery. Claimant could not do work that requires depth perception. Claimant would be able to avoid normal workplace hazards.

# Q&A 07-188

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## Detailed Question:

What visual RFC would be assigned for visual acuity (VA) 20/100. For both eyes? For one eye 20/200 and other 20/100? For normal visual fields (VF's)? For constricted VF's?

## Answer:

First it must be remembered that there is no automatic correlation between any VA/VF and RFC. One must always look at the reported limitations of the individual being assessed, regardless of his/her VA/VF. However, usually, an individual with VA of 20/100, best corrected, in both eyes should be able to travel independently, work with rather large objects, and avoid common hazards in the workplace but might have some difficulty reading normal size print. For an individual with one eye 20/200 and the other 20/100, any considerations regarding depth perception would need to be added to the above statement. Certainly, this impact would be less significant than that for an individual with no vision at all in one eye and 20/100 in the other. For an individual with normal VF, there would be no further limitations. For an individual with constricted VF, the degree of limitation would depend upon the degree of constriction. It is impossible to provide any specifics, as the degree and location of constriction is so variable. One would need to look at the remaining VF and make a determination as to how safe it would be for the individual to be present in a workplace and how likely it is that the/she could avoid common hazards. Of course, based on your scenarios above, an individual with one eye 20/200 and the other 20/100 and VF limitations as well would be more impaired than an individual with 20/100 VA in both eyes.

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**Given only a visual impairment, a substantial occupational base will usually be found for an individual who retains sufficient visual acuity to handle and work with rather large objects and has the visual fields necessary to avoid ordinary hazards in the workplace.**



**Examples of occupations that can be performed  
in the national economy with limited vision**

**520.687-046 Hand Mexican Food Maker**

**324.677-014 Doorkeeper**

**323.687-014 Housekeeping Cleaner**



## STEP 4 >

**If a claimant has exertional limitations and visual limitations, a function-by-function comparison of the claimant's RFC with the demands of PRW as claimant actually performed the work or as workers generally perform that work in the national economy will be completed unless an expedited vocational assessment applies.**

## STEP 5 >



**Most sedentary unskilled occupations require working with small objects.**

**If a visual limitation prevents an individual from seeing the small objects involved in most sedentary unskilled work, there would be a significant erosion of the sedentary occupational base.**

## STEP 5 >

**If an individual is not able to avoid ordinary hazards in the workplace, such as boxes on the floor, doors ajar or approaching people or vehicles, there would be a significant erosion of the sedentary occupational bases.**





# Conclusion

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**When assessing the RFC for an individual with a severe visual impairment, we must consider the individual's ability to perform such work-related functions as working with large or small objects, following written instructions or avoiding ordinary workplace hazards.**

**Vision loss is complicated and there are several factors to consider when assessing how the vision loss affects someone's ability to work.**

**If an individual does not have the ability to handle and work with rather large objects or avoid ordinary hazards in the workplace, there would be a significant erosion of the sedentary occupational base.**

### References:

DI 24510.006 Assessing RFC in Initial Claims (SSR 96-8p)

DI 241510.050 Completion of the Physical RFC Assessment Form

DI 25015.020 Determining Capacity to Do Other Work – Implications of a RFC for Less than a Full Range of Sedentary Work (SSR 96-9p)

DI 25020.005 Physical Limitations

DI 25005.001 Determination of Capacity for PRW – Basics of Step 4 of the Sequential Evaluation Process

SSR 85-15: Titles II and XVI: Capability to do other Work – The Med-Voc Rules as a Framework for Evaluating Solely Nonexertional Impairments

Questions?