

TINNITUS MASKER

Issue Date: November 1, 1983

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(g\)\(15\)](#)

I. DESCRIPTION

Tinnitus is the perception of noise in the ear or head area. A tinnitus masker is a device worn behind the ear by persons seeking relief from tinnitus. The masker produces sounds a few decibels above the person's audible threshold, providing distraction from the tinnitus. There are two types of maskers--one that introduces stimulus acoustically and the other, electrically. This distraction is intended to alleviate the discomfort and debilitation associated with sound within the ear or head area.

II. POLICY

Tinnitus maskers are not covered because they are considered unproven due to a lack of controlled clinical trials. There is the possibility that use of the device over a prolonged period of time may cause further hearing deterioration.

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