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New Expedited Disability Process for Veterans

SSA has announced that effective March 17, 2014, it will expedite disability claims for veterans receiving VA service-connected compensation benefits **and** who have a rating of 100% “Permanent and Total” disability from the VA. According to Emergency Message EM-14013, which provides processing instructions:

The VA rating only expedites Social Security disability claims processing and does not guarantee an allowance for [Social Security] disability benefits. These veterans must still meet Social Security eligibility and entitlement requirements for a disability allowance.

The new expedited process does **not** apply to veterans with a 100% Permanent and Total disability rating for **non-service connected pension benefits**.

The expedited process will apply at all levels. The veteran’s VA Notification Letter indicating a disability **compensation** rating of 100% Permanent and Total disability is the required proof. The original, photocopy, or facsimile of the letter will be acceptable.