

**Victor G. Alberigi**

*CRC, CDMS, ABVE-A, ABDA  
Vocational Expert  
16 B Heritage Drive  
Chatham Township, NJ 07928  
PH: 570-430-4531  
Fax: 973-507-4523*

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Attorney [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

RE: [REDACTED]  
SS #: [REDACTED]

Dear Attorney [REDACTED]:

This report has been prepared as an Independent Vocational Expert, with 18 years of experience as a Vocational Expert in Social Security Disability claims.

Per your request, I have listened to the SSD hearing for [REDACTED], which took place on [REDACTED]. Your request was for my focus on the VE portion of the hearing, which took place with VE [REDACTED], who I have never had any contact with.

The claimant testified that her PRW was exclusively with a shipping company, with some customers being international, to my awareness. The claimant testified that travel was required in her position, making lift/ carry/push/pull of luggage & computer bag of approximately 50 lbs.

The PRW was classified as a Systems Analyst, DOT # 030.167-014, classified as Sedentary with an SVP of 7 & thus Skilled. The VE noted that he believed the job was performed as Medium in physical demand, consistent with the claimant's testimony.

The hypothetical offered by the ALJ was to my understanding: Light with occasional climbing stairs, stoop, crawl, kneel & frequent overhead reaching.

The VE opined that the PRW would be within the hypothetical as classified in the DOT, but not as performed, as the job as performed was deemed as Medium in demand.

Attorney [REDACTED] posed several hypothetical questions, as well as other questions of a vocational nature, to include, but not limited to:

1. Attorney [REDACTED] noted that based upon the claimant's testimony, he believed that Ms. [REDACTED]'s PRW was very specific to the shipping industry & he questioned if her work would be accurately depicted in the more generic DOT title. He questioned therefore if the claimant would have all the skills as described in the DOT in the relevant period of 2010-2015.

As a seasoned VE, I would concur with this perspective. Having recently performed a Job Analysis of a Computer System Analyst position, which in the DOT would be classified the same way [REDACTED], VE, classified the claimant's PRW, I found this position with a national firm which specializes in computer system programmer/ operator in the hospital industry which involved work where travel was involved intermittently & when performed Medium demand activity, due to moving luggage & computer equipment. The skills were also very specific & for programmers above age 50, involved older software, which is less common in the past 5 years. The computer language used historically was Cobol which is used less frequently in the 2019 labor market.

2. Attorney [REDACTED] asked if the PRW, as classified in the DOT could be performed if fingering & handling could be performed on a Frequent basis, which VE [REDACTED] noted was possible.
3. Attorney [REDACTED] asked if the prior work could be performed with a sit/ stand option, with a person needing to change positions from seated to standing every hour, for 5 minutes, which [REDACTED] opined that he believed that the job could be performed in these restrictions.
4. Attorney [REDACTED] asked if the job could be retained while being "off task" 15% of a day, with [REDACTED] opining that his assessment is that being 15% off task would result in no competitive work being available.
5. Attorney [REDACTED] asked if competitive work could be retained if a person was unable to report to work 2 days/ month, every month, with [REDACTED] also opining that competitive work not being possible with this restriction.
6. Attorney [REDACTED] asked if the DOT addressed the issue of work-related travel required to meet with customers, with [REDACTED] noting that the DOT does not indicate that travel is involved in the DOT title.

Attorney [REDACTED] noted that due to the required travel & specialization of the computer work performed by the claimant, he questioned whether Ms. [REDACTED]'s PRW could be considered a combination/ composite job. VE [REDACTED] opined that he did not consider Ms. [REDACTED]'s position as a composite job, though he also noted that he was not acquainted with SSA regulation concerning composite jobs. Attorney [REDACTED] noted that

he didn't believe that there was an alternate DOT title which accurately depicted the need to travel while performing computer programming work, which VE [REDACTED] concurred with.

As I earlier noted, I am acquainted with computer programmers & related technicians intermittently traveling to customer sites in the health care & financial services sectors. One example is the employer, Siemen's Inc. which offers a range of computer programming & other technical services to clients, internationally. I am most acquainted with this company providing such services to hospitals in the information systems technology field, with many older technicians using an older computer language known as Cobol. The travel required the job to be performed at a Medium demand, due to luggage & computer equipment.

The DOT doesn't address travel in the field of computer programming & related technical services, however this would also be true in other DOT occupations, such as in the field of procurement management, which is classified as Sedentary & Skilled with an SVP of 7, DOT # : 162.167-022. Having analyzed this occupation relative to a recent Long Term Disability case which I was recently retained for, the issue of this DOT title being classified as Sedentary does not consider travel as a required activity, but in reality was an essential function of a particular employee's responsibility, thus changing the physical demand as performed. It should be noted that the DOT, like any vocational resource guide is more general than specific in terms of occupations descriptions.

Another example of this factor which I have witnessed is work performed by SSA ALJ's when they are traveling to perform hearings, wherein an occupation classified as Sedentary in the DOT, would be performed as Medium when traveling due to luggage, laptop & other materials while traveling.

All opinions offered are done so within a reasonable extent of vocational certainty.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor G. Alberigi,

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor  
Certified Disability Management Specialist  
Member, American Board of Disability Analysts  
Associate Member, American Board of Vocational Experts.