

disablement or death were an injury by accident, except as otherwise provided in §§ 22 to 30 [hereof] OF THIS ARTICLE; and the practice and procedure prescribed elsewhere in this article shall apply to proceedings for compensation for [such] THE diseases, except as PROVIDED in [said] §§ 22 to 30, and §§ 52, 56 and 67 OF THIS ARTICLE [, as hereby amended, otherwise provided].

23.

(b) (1) When compensation is payable for an occupational disease, the employer in whose employment the employee was last injuriously exposed to the hazards of [such] THE disease, and the insurance carrier, if any, on the risk when [such] THE employee was last so exposed under [such] THE employer, shall be liable therefor; the amount of the compensation shall be based upon the average wages of the employee when ~~last so exposed under such employer~~ ~~FIRE-DISABLED~~; and the notice of injury and claim for compensation, as hereinafter required, shall be given and made to [such] THE employer; provided, however, that in case of silicosis or asbestosis the only employer or insurance carrier liable shall be the last employer in whose employment the employee was last injuriously exposed to the hazards of the disease during a period of sixty (60) days or more after the effective date of this subtitle, and the insurance carrier, if any, on the risk when the employee was last so exposed under such employer].

~~(2) WHEN THE EMPLOYER NO LONGER MAINTAINS A PLACE OF BUSINESS, COMPENSATION WILL BE PAYABLE BY THE SUBSEQUENT INJURY FUND.~~

~~(c) An employer shall not be liable for any compensation for an occupational disease unless such disease, except in case of silicosis, asbestosis or other pulmonary dust disease, shall be due to the nature of an employment in which the hazards of such disease actually exist, and to a reasonable degree of medical certainty is OR THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DISEASE ARE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE KNOWN TO RESULT FROM EXPOSURE TO A GIVEN PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL AGENT attributable to his type of employment, and is actually THERE IS A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE DISEASE WAS INCURRED IN HIS EMPLOYMENT and unless disablement or death results within one (1) year after the last injurious exposure to such disease in such employment, or in case of death, unless death follows continuous disability from such disease, commencing within the period above limited, for which compensation has been paid or awarded or claim made as provided in this article, and results within seven (7) years after such last exposure. The liability of an employer shall not be limited as provided by this subsection in the case of disease caused by ionizing radiation.]~~ COMPENSATION FOR AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE UNLESS: