

(7) Whenever it shall appear that any permanent disability from which an employee is suffering following an accidental injury, is due in part to such injury, and in part to a preexisting disease or infirmity, the Commission shall determine the proportion of such disability which is reasonably attributable to the injury and the proportion thereof which is reasonably attributable to the preexisting disease or infirmity, and such employee shall be entitled to compensation for that proportion of his disability which is reasonably attributable solely to the accident and shall not be entitled to compensation for that proportion of his disability which is reasonably attributable to the preexisting disease or infirmity. This subsection shall not apply to temporary total and temporary partial disability. This subsection shall not apply where the combined effects resulting from a previous impairment, as defined in § 66(1), and a subsequent accidental injury result in a permanent disability exceeding fifty per centum (50%) of the body as a whole.

(8) (a) In case the injury causes death within the period of seven years from the date of the accident the benefits shall be in the amounts and to the persons following: If there are wholly dependent persons at the time of death, the payment shall be sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of the average weekly wages of the deceased employee, not to exceed, however, a maximum of 100 percent of the average weekly wage of the State of Maryland as determined by the Department of Employment Security, as provided in § 36(2) of this article and not less than a minimum of twenty-five dollars per week unless the deceased employee's established weekly wages were less than twenty-five dollars per week at the time of the injury in which event the compensation shall be an amount equal to the average weekly wages, and to continue to be paid during total dependency but not to exceed \$45,000.00, except as otherwise provided in this section. If a surviving wife, husband, or child continues to be totally dependent after the total amount of \$45,000.00 has been paid, further payments to the surviving wife, husband, or child shall be paid at the same weekly rate during his or her total dependency. If a surviving wife, husband or child, except as set forth in paragraph (d) herein, who is wholly dependent at the time of death becomes thereafter wholly or partially self-supporting, payments shall nevertheless continue until the total sum of \$45,000.00 has been paid, and thereafter further benefits shall cease. It is the intention herein that a surviving wife or husband who is wholly dependent at the time of death shall receive at least the total sum of \$45,000.00, even though she or he becomes wholly or partially self-supporting before that sum is paid. The Commission has continuing jurisdiction to determine whether the surviving wife, husband, or child has become wholly or partially self-supporting, and to suspend, terminate or reinstate suspended or terminated payments of compensation. The