1968. No. 176 **[C]**

NATIONAL INSURANCE (INDUSTRIAL INJURIES)

Benefit

REGULATIONS, DATED 25TH JULY 1968, MADE BY THE INDUSTRIAL INJURIES JOINT AUTHORITY AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE (INDUSTRIAL INJURIES) ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1966.

The Industrial Injuries Joint Authority, in exercise of powers conferred by paragraphs 1(*d*) and 2 of Schedule 4 to the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**a**), and the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of powers conferred by section 7(1) of the National Insurance (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**b**), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations, which may be cited as the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Benefit) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968, shall be read as one with the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Benefit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1948(**c**) (hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations") and shall come into operation on 1st August 1968.

Regulation substituted for regulation 2 of the principal regulations

2. For regulation 2 of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following regulation:

"Further definition of the principles of assessment of disablement and prescribed degrees of disablement

2.—(1) Schedule 4 (general principles relating to the assessment of the extent of disablement) to the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (hereafter in this regulation referred to as 'the Act of 1966') shall have effect subject to the provisions of this regulation.

(2) Where a claimant suffers as the result of the relevant accident from some loss of physical or mental faculty any assessment of the extent of the resulting disablement, made by reference to the disabilities which are to be treated as having been incurred as a result of the relevant loss of faculty in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the Act of 1966, shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph (3), not take account of any such disablement to the extent that the claimant either—

(*a*) would have been subject thereto as the result of a congenital defect or of an injury or disease received or contracted before the relevant accident whether or not that accident had occurred; or

(*b*) would not have been subject thereto but for some injury or disease received or contracted after, and not directly attributable to, that accident.

(3) In any case where the extent of disablement resulting from the relevant loss of faculty would, but for the provisions of this paragraph,

(a) 1966. c. 9 (N.I.).
(b) 1966. c. 16 (N.I.).
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1948, No. 203.

be assessed at not less than twenty per cent., any disability to which the claimant is subject as a result both of the relevant injury and of some injury or disease received or contracted after the relevant accident shall be treated as having been incurred as a result of the relevant loss of faculty and the assessment shall take account of any such disablement to the extent to which the claimant would not have been subject thereto if the relevant accident had never occurred:

Provided that any such disablement attributable to an accident and a disease or to two or more accidents or diseases (as the case may be) against which the claimant is insured under the Act of 1966 shall only be treated, by virtue of this paragraph, as having been incurred as a result of the loss of faculty resulting from one such accident or disease, being that one which occurred or developed last in point of time.

(4) Where the sole injury which a claimant suffers as a result of the relevant accident is one specified in column 1 of Schedule 1, whether or not such injury includes one or more other injuries so specified, the loss of faculty suffered by the claimant as a result of that injury shall be treated, for the purposes of section 12 (disablement benefit) of, and Schedule 4 to, the Act of 1966 as resulting in the degree of disablement set against such injury in column 2 of the said Schedule 1 subject to such increase or reduction of that degree of disablement as may be reasonable in the circumstances of the case where, having regard to which disabilities are and which disabilities are not to be treated in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 to the Act of 1966 as having been incurred as a result of the relevant loss of faculty, and having regard to paragraphs (1) to (3) of this regulation, that degree of disablement does not provide a reasonable assessment of the extent of disablement resulting from the relevant injury.

(5) For the purpose of assessing, in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 to the Act of 1966, the extent of disablement resulting from the relevant injury in any case which does not fall to be determined under paragraph (4) of this regulation, the medical appeal tribunal, the medical board or the single medical practitioner acting instead of a medical board (as the case may be) may have such regard as may be appropriate to the prescribed degrees of disablement set against the injuries specified in the said Schedule 1.

(6) (*a*) Where in any case an assessment of the extent of disablement has been made in accordance with the provisions of this regulation or with the provisions replaced by this regulation and there has been an amendment to any relevant item in the said Schedule 1 since the date of that assessment, the insurance officer shall either

(i) review that assessment and make such adjustment of it as may be necessary to give effect to the said amendment from the date of the coming into force of the said amendment, or

(ii) refer the question to a medical board for determination in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (*b*);

(*b*) a medical board shall, on a reference by the insurance officer under sub-paragraph (*a*), review the assessment so as to give effect to the said amendment from the date of the coming into force of the said amendment, if they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so and in so doing shall proceed upon the facts included in the record of the decision of the medical board or medical appeal tribunal which made that assessment;

(*c*) a beneficiary who is dissatisfied with the decision of the insurance officer under sub-paragraph (*a*) may appeal against that decision to