

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPARTEMENT VAN GESONDHEID

No. R. 879

8 September 2006

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF OPTOMETRY
AND DISPENSING OPTICIANS

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations in writing on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X 828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: HR Stakeholder Relations and Management), within one month from date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, “**the Act**” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates:-

“**board**” means the Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians established in terms of section 15(1) of the Act

“**dispensing optician**” means a person registered as such in terms of the Act; and

“**optometrist**” means a person registered as such in terms of the Act.

2. Acts pertaining to the profession of optometry

(1) The following acts are hereby specified as acts which are, for the purpose of the Act, deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of optometry:-

(a) The performance of eye examination on patients with the purpose of detecting visual errors in order to provide clear, comfortable and effective vision; and

(b) The correction of errors of refraction and related factors by the provision of spectacles, lenses, spectacle frames, contact lenses, the maintenance thereof, and the use of scheduled substances as approved by the board and the Medicine Control Council or by any means other than surgical procedures.

(2) The provisions of this regulation do not prohibit the provision of spectacles, spectacle lenses, and spectacle frames by a registered dispensing optician on the prescription of a registered and qualified medical practitioner or of a registered optometrist.

3. Acts pertaining to the profession of Dispensing Opticians

(1) The following acts are hereby specified as acts which are, for the purpose of the Act, deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dispensing opticians-

(a) The provision, directly to the public, of spectacles, spectacles frames or spectacle lenses designed or intended to correct errors of refraction, including the performance of facial measurements and adjustments; and

(b) The repair or replacement of spectacles, spectacles frame or spectacle lenses.

- (2) These regulations do not prohibit the supply of assistive visual devices by any supplier: Provided that such assistive visual devices :-
- (a) must be limited to single vision moulded lenses of equal power right and left in the range +1.00 to +3.00 dioptres; and
 - (b) must only be supplied with the following warning attached to them and also displayed in close proximity to where the glasses are offered for sale, making the public aware of "silent" pathology:-

Warning

"Diseases causing blindness can only be detected by having a regular, professional eye examination. These reading glasses are only for a short term use by persons over the age of 40 years and are not suitable for driving purposes".

4. Repeal

The regulations published under Government Notices No. R. 1100 of 30 May 1984 and R. 228 of 16 March 2001 are hereby repealed.


Minister of Health