

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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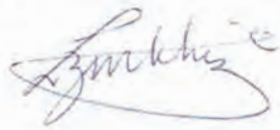
27 MARCH 2020

DENTAL TECHNICIANS ACT, 1979 (ACT No. 19 of 1979)
REGULATIONS REGARDING THE REGISTRATION AND TRAINING OF STUDENT DENTAL
TECHNICIANS AND STUDENT DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The Minister of Health has, under section 50 of the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act No. 19 of 1979), on the recommendation of the South African Dental Technicians Council, made the Regulations in the Schedule.

DR. Z.L. MKHIZE, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 20/01/2020



SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act bear that meaning and, unless the context indicates otherwise -

"**approved institution**" means a public higher education institution or private institution approved under the Higher Education Act 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997) and accredited by the Council;

"**council**" means the South African Dental Technicians Council established in terms of section xx of the Act;

"**education committee**" means the committee established by the council in terms of section 11 of the Act;

"**education inspector**" means an inspector referred to in regulations 15 and 16 and Section 31 of the Act;

"**employer**" means the owner of a registered dental laboratory and who employs a registered dental technician or dental technologist;

"extended curriculum programme" means learning activities at the lower end of the higher education band that are intended to enable students from disadvantaged educational backgrounds to acquire the academic foundation necessary for succeeding in higher education, and that must lead to a purposeful and structured set of learning outcomes that lead to an approved and recognised professional qualification;

"dental technician" means any person who is registered as such by the Council;

"dental technologist" means any person who is registered as such by the Council;

"final summative practical assessment" means the last practical assessment in any appropriate subject in any academic year that is intended to assess the student's fitness for an approved purpose, at a given level, but specifically referring to those assessments at the end of a programme that would be presented to or considered by the Council for professional registration purposes;

"laboratory" means a dental laboratory registered under section 30 of the Act;

"minimum requirements" means-

- (a) the annual determined requirements approved by the Council on the recommendation of an accreditation panel of the education committee of the Council; and
- (b) for the purposes of regulations 9, 10 and 11, the annual determined requirements contemplated in paragraph (a) for practical education and training required by the approved syllabus of an approved institution for the appropriate practical subject, of which the successful completion may be considered by the Council for registration purposes;

"NQSF" means a National Qualifications Sub-Framework as contemplated in the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008);

"professional study" means study at an approved institution for any of the Council approved qualifications and aligned to the prevailing NQSF or any national structure that may replace it from time to time, and the expressions "professional study in dental technology" and "study in dental technology" have corresponding meanings;

"Regulations" means these Regulations;

"senate" means the highest authority at an university of technology or a similar approved structure at a private institution approved under the Higher Education Act 1997 (Act No 101 of 1997);

"the Act" means the Dental Technicians Act, (Act No. 19 of 1979) as amended; and

"work integrating learning" and "practical laboratory exposure" mean education that combines learning in the lecture room with learning in the dental laboratory where academic knowledge is applied through relevant work experience outside the lecture room and the challenges and insights so gained are brought back to the lecture room for further analysis and reflection, work-integrating-learning and practical laboratory exposure.

Approval of training institutions: Procedure in accreditation and evaluation of training

2 (1) An application by a training institution for permission to offer or provide any education or training which is intended to qualify a person to practice the profession of a dental technician or a dental technologist, must be submitted in writing by that institution to the Council at least six months prior to the commencement of such education or training.

(2) The application referred to in subregulation (1) must be accompanied by the applicant's capital expenditure budget; equipment maintenance plan; and future contingencies for applying new technologies; self-evaluation report based on the guidelines provided by the Council; and must meet the criteria determined by the Council from time to time by rule.

(3) A training institution must, in support of its application, indicate whether offering any of the approved qualifications at the approved institution has been approved by all other reporting structures both internal and external to the said approved institution, where applicable.

(4) On receipt of an application contemplated in subregulation (1), the Council may-

- (a) request from the applicant or any other person any further information that it deems necessary to enable it to consider the application; and
- (b) appoint an evaluation panel or another structure of Council, if deemed necessary and make the necessary arrangements including but not limited to scheduling the date of the evaluation with the educational institution.

(5) The evaluation panel referred to in sub regulation (4) (b) must conduct the evaluation in accordance with the criteria determined by the Council, and provide the Council with the evaluation report and its recommendations.

(6) The Council must consider the application together with the evaluation report and the recommendations of the evaluation panel and decide on whether or not to accredit the training in question.

(7) The Council may, after considering the application together with the evaluation report and the evaluation panel's recommendations and before deciding on the application, direct the registrar to ask the educational institution to clarify specified aspects of the application or to provide any additional information to enable the council to make its own decision.

(8) The Council may, having considered the application, evaluation report, recommendations of the evaluation panel, and any clarification or additional information from the educational institution, approve, conditionally approve, or refuse the accreditation of the training and educational institution concerned and if approved must approve the number of student dental technicians or technologists who may be enrolled as first-year students.

(9) An approved institution must employ only dental technologists registered with the Council in the education and training of student dental technicians or technologists, and other suitably qualified persons approved by the council for any ancillary subjects such as those related to professional ethics and practice.

Duration of accreditation

3. (1) The Council may, subject to regulation 2(8) accredit the training concerned for a period not exceeding five years.

(2) If the application does not meet all the criteria determined by the Council, the Council may provisionally accredit the training concerned for a period of time less than five years and subject to certain conditions that:-

- (a) The council must re-evaluate the training referred to in subregulation (1) after every five years, and after the period of time stipulated in subregulation (2);
- (b) The council may, at any time after accrediting training and before the expiry of the five-year period of accreditation, direct that an accredited training and educational institution be re-evaluated, should it be in receipt of information to the effect that the accredited training and educational institution no longer meets the requirements prescribed by the council.

Withdrawal of accreditation

4. (1) The Council may withdraw the accreditation of the training and the educational institution referred to in these regulations if:

- (a) the training and the educational institution no longer meets the minimum requirements determined by the Council; and
- (b) information is brought to the council to the effect that such training and an educational institution no longer comply with the conditions of accreditation as may have been determined by the Council.

(2) The Council must, prior to the withdrawal of the accreditation of training and an educational institution, give an educational institution 30 days within which to furnish the reasons why such training and an educational institution's accreditation should not be withdrawn.

(3) The Council must consider the reasons furnished by an educational institution before withdrawing the accreditation of an educational institution.

(4) Should the Council decide to withdraw accreditation of training and an educational institution, the Council must, in writing, inform such an educational institution and the students at such an educational institution of its decision accordingly.

(5) The Council may, having withdrawn the accreditation of the training in an educational institution, give any direction to the educational institution and the students at that educational institution.

(6) The council may require a person who is in possession of a qualification from an educational institution whose accreditation has been withdrawn to undergo and pass an evaluation or evaluations both in the theoretical as well as the practical aspect of dental technology as it applies to the relevant qualification, before considering such person for registration in terms of the Act.

Composition of the evaluation panel

5. (1) Wherever possible, and subject to the approval of council, the evaluation panel should comprise:

- (a) A member of council as Chair;
- (b) A representative of the discipline of Complete Removable Prosthodontics;

- (c) A representative of the discipline of Partial Removable Prosthodontics;
- (d) A representative of the discipline of Fixed Prosthodontics;
- (e) A representative of the discipline of Orthodontics;
- (f) Any other person the council may wish to include;
- (g) In attendance: a council observer; and
- (h) Council secretariat.

(2) Council shall determine and publish, by Rule, from time to time, fees payable to members of the evaluation panel for the evaluation of the training and the educational institution and for the preparation of the evaluation report for accreditation or re-accreditation contemplated in these regulations.

(3) The registrar must pay members of the evaluation panel fees and disbursements due to the members of the evaluation panel on the submission, to the registrar, of the final evaluation report.

Registration of student dental technician or dental technologist

6. (1) An application for registration as a student dental technician or student technologist must be made to the council within 90 days after the commencement of the applicant's study: provided that the council may grant an extension of the period, as it considers appropriate.

(2) An application for registration as a student dental technician or student technologist must be accompanied by-

- (a) a certified copy of a birth certificate or, if the applicant is unable to submit a birth certificate, alternative proof of age and correct names to the satisfaction of the registrar;
- (b) a certificate, which is equivalent to any grade 12 or equivalent educational qualification that regulates admission to a higher educational institution at the level of such specific qualification;
- (c) a declaration from the approved institution concerned indicating that the applicant has commenced studies in dental technology at that approved institution, and indicating the programme, the year of study for which the applicant is enrolled and the date on which he or she was so enrolled; and
- (d) a registration fee as determined by council from time to time.

(3) A student dental technician or student technologist must not be registered by the council if any of the documents referred to in sub regulation (2)(a),(b) or (c) have not been received as well as the payment referred to in sub regulation (2)(d) by 30 April of the applicable year of study.

(4) An approved institution may, on the grounds of previous education or training of a student dental technician or student dental technologist in dental technology, grant such a student exemption from studies for a specific study year, as long as the requirements of council are upheld.

(5) A student dental technician or dental technologist whose registration as such has expired but, who, within one year thereafter, resumes his or her professional study, must submit an application for re-registration to the council within 14 days of the resumption of his or her professional study: Provided that the council may extend the period of 14 days, as it considers appropriate.

- (6) An application referred to in sub regulation (5) must be accompanied by-
- (a) A declaration indicating that the applicant has resumed his or her professional study;
 - (b) the original registration certificate issued by the council; and
 - (c) an amount payable as determined by the council from time to time.

(7) Despite sub regulation (6), the name of a student dental technician or student technologist who interrupts his or her professional study for not more than one year and who applies in writing to the council to continue his or her studies in the following year, must not be removed from the register of student dental technicians or dental technologist during the said period.

(8) A person who applies for re-registration in terms of sub regulation (5) but who is not able to submit his or her original certificate as required in terms of regulation (6) (b) must apply to the council for a certified copy of his or her original registration certificate, for which a fee as determined by council from time to time is payable.

(9) An application for re-registration as a student dental technician or dental technologist must be accompanied by-

- (a) a certified copy of the relevant approved and recognised qualification in dental technology of the applicant concerned, or other proof from the approved institution that the applicant has complied with the requirements for the prerequisite qualification:

- (b) a declaration from the approved institution concerned indicating that the applicant has commenced studies towards the appropriate qualification at that approved institution, and the date on which he or she was so enrolled; and
- (c) a registration fee as determined by the council from time to time.

(10) A student dental technician or dental technologist must not be registered or re-registered by the council if any of the documents referred to in subregulation (9)(a) or (b) as well as the payment referred to in subregulation (9)(c) have not been received by 30 April of the applicable year of study.

(11) Any application for registration or re-registration, together with the applicable documents and fees, submitted after the period of 90 days referred to in sub regulation (1), or the period of 14 days referred to in sub regulation (5), as the case may be, must be subject to an additional registration fee as determined by the council for each month or portion of a month that the application is overdue, subject to any extension that the council may grant.

(12) No person must be registered or re-registered unless he or she has complied with sub regulation 2, 5 or 8, as the case may be, and with sub regulation 11, where applicable.

(13) A registration certificate in a format approved by the council must be issued to each student dental technician or dental technologist, as the case may be.

Information to be supplied by an approved institution

7. (1) An approved institution must, as soon as possible after 15 March of each year, submit a list to the council indicating the full names of all-

- (a) student dental technicians or dental technologists enrolled at such approved institution on 15 March of that year;
- (b) student dental technicians or dental technologists who abandoned their studies during the preceding 12 months, and, in cases where students have discontinued their professional study, the date of such discontinuation;
- (c) student dental technicians or dental technologists who temporarily abandoned their studies during the preceding 12 months, together with the reasons for such temporary abandonment and the date, where possible, on which such persons anticipate resuming their studies; and

- (d) student dental technicians or dental technologists, who, after the temporary abandonment of their studies, resumed their studies during the preceding 12 months.

(2) Every approved institution must notify the council within 30 days after a student dental technician or technologist, has been found guilty by such an approved institution, of misconduct in terms of the rules and regulations of the approved institution concerned, and must furnish the council with full particulars of such conduct.

(3) If a student is in contravention of the statutes under the administration of the council, such contravention must be reported to the registrar of the council for decision and possible action.

Removal of names from register of student dental technicians or dental technologists

- 8. The registrar must remove the name of a student dental technician or dental technologist, from the register that is kept in terms of section 20 of the Act-
 - (a) as soon as he or she has been registered as a dental technician or dental technologist or 30 days after the registrar receives notice of the name of such student in accordance with regulation 11; or
 - (b) as soon as evidence has been submitted to the satisfaction of the registrar that the student dental technician or dental technologist has abandoned his or her professional study in South Africa.

Minimum curriculum for courses leading to registration as a dental technician

- 9. (1) (a) The period of professional study in dental technology must be from the date of registration as a student dental technician, at an approved institution until the date on which the appropriate recognised qualification, entitling such student dental technician to register as a dental technician, is awarded, or until such time as a National Professional Examination when available, has been passed.
- (b) The period referred to in paragraph (a) must consist of at least the minimum time prescribed for that qualification level as it appears on the NQSF, inclusive of both academic training at an approved institution and such practical laboratory exposure as may be applicable.

(2) From the first year of study all subjects must be aimed at training in dental technology.

(3) The syllabus for professional study for any of the council approved qualifications at any of the NQSF must consist of systematic instruction and, where applicable, practical work, and must cover the following:

- (a) All aspects of modern dental technology that are benchmarked internationally;
- (b) Dental materials science appropriate to the aspects referred to in paragraph (a) and underpinned by the appropriate applied and biosciences;
- (c) Dental technology and other related legislation that impacts on the profession of dental technology; and
- (d) Professional conduct and ethics.

Minimum curriculum for courses leading to registration as a dental technologist

10. (1) (a) The period of professional study in dental technology must be from the date of registration as a student dental technologist, at an approved institution until the date on which the appropriate recognised qualification, entitling such student dental technologist to register as a dental technologist, is awarded, or until such time as a National Professional Examination when available, has been passed.

(b) The period referred to in paragraph (a) must consist of at least the minimum time prescribed for that qualification level as it appears on the NQSF, inclusive of both academic training at an approved institution and such practical laboratory exposure as may be determined under regulation (3) (f).

(2) From the first year of study all subjects must be aimed at training in dental technology.

(3) The syllabus for professional study for any of the council approved qualifications at any of the NQSF must consist of systematic instruction and, where applicable, practical work, and must cover the following:

- (a) All aspects of modern dental technology that are benchmarked internationally;

- (b) Dental materials science appropriate to the aspects referred to in paragraph (a) and underpinned by the appropriate applied and biosciences;
- (c) Dental technology and other related legislation that impacts on the profession of dental technology;
- (d) Professional conduct and ethics;
- (e) General dental laboratory management, business competence and business practice related subjects focused on the application in dental technology;
- (f) Profession-specific and work-integrating learning, aimed at preparing students for the world of work in general, but focused on the profession of dental technology, which must enable student dental technologists to successfully participate as employees in a registered dental laboratory, and student dental technologists as employers, entrepreneurs or supervisors of dental laboratories; and
- (g) the ability to engage and conduct profession-directed-research that must contribute to the development of the dental technology profession.

Syllabus

11. (1) The curriculum and syllabus must be determined by each approved training institution and must be presented to the council prior to commencement for approval as must be the case when any changes to the approved curriculum and syllabus are made.

(2) The curriculum and syllabus contemplated in sub regulation (1) must contain all the aspects provided for in regulation 9 (3) where applicable to courses leading to registration as a dental technician or regulations 10 (3) where applicable to courses leading to registration as a dental technologist.

Examinations

12. (1) An approved institution must-
- (a) evaluate the progress of a student dental technician or dental technologist in respect of the subjects referred to in regulations 9 (3) or 10 (3) as the case may be and conduct the examinations in those subjects in accordance with the rules framed by the senate ~~academic board~~ of such approved institution as approved by the council; and
 - (b) at the end of the period contemplated in regulations 9 (1) or 10 (1) as the case may be, examine the student dental technician or

technologist, by means of a practical examination in dental technology in accordance with the rules framed by the senate of such approved institution, where the Act and the Regulations are silent, but such rules may not be in contravention of the Act and the Regulations.

- (2) A student dental technician or dental technologist may receive recognition from the senate or from a similar structure with the same mandate, of an approved training institution, for a subject when he or she has passed the examination in such subject in accordance with these Regulations.
- (3) In the event where a student dental technician or dental technologist enrolls on the Extended Curriculum Programme, a further one year must be allowed over and above the time period contemplated in regulation 9 (1) and 10 (1).

Completion of academic years of study

13. (1) An approved institution must, on or before 31 December of each year, furnish the registrar in writing with the name of each student dental technician or dental technologist at such approved institution, who has complied with the requirements for the appropriate, approved and recognised qualification regardless of whether the qualification is withheld on institutional grounds.

(2) The withheld qualifications must be communicated to the Council as an addendum to this requirement.

Proficiency

14. (1) An approved institution must determine at what stage and for what period a student dental technician, where applicable, and student dental technologist must undergo work integrated learning/practical laboratory exposure in accredited dental laboratories.

(2) For the purposes of sub regulation (1) the council and the approved institution must approve and accredit any dental laboratory referred to in sub regulation (1) by a process of evaluation as determined by council from time to time, by Rule.

(3) An approved institution must ensure that the proficiency acquired through work integrated learning/practical laboratory exposure and other practical work, together with academic training, is sufficient for a student dental technologist to be employed as a dental technician or dental technologist.

Qualification to practice the profession as dental technician or dental technologist

15. (1) An approved institution must award the appropriate qualification as approved by council to a student dental technician or dental technologist if the student has passed the examinations prescribed for that qualification and otherwise complied with the requirements determined by the senate of that institution for that qualification.

(2) The appropriate qualification as approved by council and awarded by an approved institution may be recognised by the council as the qualification which entitles the holder thereof to registration as a dental technician or dental technologist in terms of section 18 of the Act and to practise the profession as a dental technician or dental technologist, until such time as council approves a national professional examination for registration, in which case the approved institutional qualification will be accepted by the council as entrance qualification to the indicated examination.

(3) The council will publish by Rule the requirements for a national professional examination for registration and the commencement year in which all graduates in dental technology must take and pass the national examination in order to be registered as a dental technician or dental technologist.

(4) A dental technician must be entitled to practice his or her profession in the capacity of an employee.

(5) A dental technologist must be entitled to practice his or her profession in the capacity of an employee or an employer.

(6) For the purposes of this regulation, the council will continue to register as a dental technician holders of the following qualifications: the National Diploma: Dental Technology, the Diploma: Dental Technology; the National Higher Diploma: Dental Technology; the Advanced Diploma: Dental Technology or any qualifications previously issued or recognised by council for this purpose.

(7) For the purposes of this regulation, the Council will continue to register as a dental technologist holder of the following qualifications: the B.Tech.Dent.Tech. degree; the Post Graduate Diploma: Dental Technology, or any qualifications previously issued or recognised by council for this purpose, all rights granted under previously issued qualifications will be recognised and retained.

Investigation into education and training at an approved institution

16. (1) The council may annually, at its first meeting, appoint at least two dental technicians or dental technologists as education inspectors.

(2) The fees and allowances payable to an education inspector convenor or an education inspector for the performance of their functions must be determined by the council from time to time by Rule.

(3) An education inspector, on the instruction of the council, may be present whenever an approved institution conducts a final assessment in respect of academic progress made by student dental technicians or dental technologists and may investigate any matter concerned with the education of such students, and must report to the council on such examination or investigation.

(4) An investigation must not be carried out by an education inspector unless

- (a) the council has decided that an investigation is to be carried out at that specific approved institution; or
- (b) an approved institution requests the council, in writing, to cause an investigation to be carried out, and the council approves such investigation.

(5) The education inspector must declare in his or her report whether or not the minimum requirements and standards for education and training, as prescribed by the council, are being maintained, and whether the assessment is effective as a means of determining the competence of student dental technicians or dental technologists.

(6) The education inspector may attach to his or her report, any other evaluation reports, question papers, memoranda, work models, examples of completed tasks or any other documents, photographic evidence or observations relevant to the report.

(7) The education inspector must submit his or her report to the registrar within one month of the completion of the investigation.

(8) The registrar must submit the report to the education committee of the council which may, if it is of the opinion that the report is lacking in any respect, order that the education inspector submit an amended or additional report.

(9) The report must thereafter be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of the approved institution concerned for comment, and the comments must be furnished within one month of receipt of the report to the registrar, failing which the report will stand.

(10) The report and the comments, if any, of the approved institution concerned, must be submitted to the education committee of the council for its first meeting thereafter or a special meeting may be convened for this purpose.

(11) If the education committee of the council is of the opinion that the report reveals deficiencies in the education and training or in the assessment of the competence of student dental technicians or dental technologists, the education committee must report to the Council accordingly and the council may take such steps as it deems necessary to ensure that the deficiencies are remedied.

Investigation into education and training at approved institution

17. (1) An education inspector must, if the council so directs, be present for such period as the council may determine, at the final summative practical assessment of any or all of the dental technology specific subjects that have a compulsory practical component and which is reflective of the professional skills of the student dental technician or dental technologist, and which is part of the appropriate, approved and recognised qualification conducted by an approved institution.

(2) The education inspector must declare in his or her report contemplated in sub regulation (1), whether in his or her opinion-

- (a) the summative practical assessment was an effective and valid means of evaluating the students concerned;
- (b) the summative practical assessment was completed in a manner consistent with the minimum requirements; and

- (c) the summative practical assessment tasks were of such a standard as to show that the students concerned are able to practice the profession of dental technician or dental technologist.

(3) For the purposes of sub regulation (2), the education inspector must submit his or her report to the registrar within one month of the completion of the investigation:-

- (a) the registrar must submit the report to the education committee of the council which, if the report is lacking in any respect, may order that the education inspector submit an amended or additional report;
- (b) the report, together with the amended or additional report must, if necessary, be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of the approved institution concerned for comment, who must respond within one month of receipt of the report; and
- (c) the report and the response contemplated in paragraph (b), if any, must be submitted to the education committee of the council for its first meeting thereafter or, if necessary, for a special meeting convened for that purpose.
- (d) If the education committee of the council is of the opinion that the results of the summative practical assessment, taken as a whole, do not at least reflect the minimum standard or that the conditions under which the assessment was conducted were unacceptable or if the results of the approved institution revealed irregularities or inconsistencies, as reflected in the reporting referred to in subregulation (3), such education committee must report to the council accordingly and the council must take such steps against the approved institution as it may deem necessary.
- (e) If the council is of the view that the examination results of the summative practical assessment, taken as a whole, do not at least reflect the minimum standard, the council may request one or more particular students to be re-examined by the approved institution as a condition for his or her registration as a dental technician or dental technologist, as the case may be.

Offences

18. Any owner of a registered dental laboratory who fails to comply with regulation 13 (2) must be guilty of an offence and upon conviction liable to a fine as determined by the council.

Repeal

19. The Regulations published under Government Notice No. R 156 of 23 February 2001, are hereby repealed.

Short title

20. These regulations are called the Regulations Regarding the Registration and Training of Student Dental Technicians and Dental Technologists, 2020.