

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 3004

3 February 2023

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO.56 OF 1974)

REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF ORTHOPAEDIC
FOOTWEAR TECHNICIANS

The Minister of Health intends, in terms of section 33 (1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and on the recommendation of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotist / Prosthetist, to make the regulations in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for attention of the Director: Public Entities Governance; mihloti.mushwana@health.gov.za and paul.tsebe@health.gov.za), within three month of the date of publication of this notice.



DR M.J PHAAHLA, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 23/12/2022

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these Regulations, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise –

“**the Act**” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and

“**Specialised Orthopaedic footwear devices / surgical boots**” means therapeutic shoes including but not limited to custom-made and surgical footwear, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, partial foot prosthesis and foot orthoses.

Acts pertaining to the profession of orthopaedic footwear technicians.

2. The following are acts pertaining to the profession of orthopaedic footwear technicians: -
 - (a) The implementation of the treatment plan based on an assessment by the Medical Orthotist and Prosthetist to design and manufacture specialised orthopaedic footwear to alleviate limitations and enhance function;
 - (b) The custom manufacturing process for the specialised orthopaedic footwear which includes:
 - (i) Measuring and casting for the specialised orthopaedic footwear orthoses,
 - (ii) Modification and/or rectification of the specialised orthopaedic footwear orthoses,
 - (iii) Material selection to use for the specialised orthopaedic footwear orthoses, and
 - (iv) Fabrication of the specialised orthopaedic footwear orthoses using specialised techniques such as molding, blocking and lasting within an orthopaedic laboratory;

- (c) Management of patients with orthopaedic footwear or surgical boot needs;
- (d) Providing patient care and services under the direction and supervision of a Medical Orthotist and Prosthetist;
- (e) Providing specialised orthopaedic footwear device and surgical boot for the prevention and improvement of painful and disabling conditions of the foot and ankle including patient measurements, implementation of the treatment plan, manufacturing of the orthopaedic footwear and surgical boots, manufacturing of the orthopaedic footwear device, fitting of the orthopaedic footwear device and follow-up on the fitting of the footwear device; and
- (f) The assessment and formulation of the treatment plan falls outside the scope of the profession of orthopaedic footwear technicians.

Repeal

3. The Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Orthopaedic Footwear Technicians as published under Government Notice No. R2263 in *Regulation Gazette No. 4136* of 9 October 1987 are hereby repealed.

Short title

4. These Regulations are called Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Orthopaedic Footwear Technicians, 2022.