

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 of 1974

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

Published under Government Notice R280 in *Government Gazette* 29748 of 5 April 2007 and amended by:

GN R47 **GG 38426** **2015/01/28**

The Minister of Health has, in consultation with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and in terms of [section 33](#)(1) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), made the regulations in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

1. [Definitions](#)
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1. Definitions

In these regulations “**the Act**” means the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974), and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have 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 profession of optometry

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

- (a) The performance of eye examinations on patients with the purpose of detecting visual errors in order to provide clear, comfortable and effective vision; [Para. (a) substituted by GN R47/2014 w.e.f. 28 January 2015]

- (b) the correction of errors of refraction and related factors by the provision of spectacles, spectacle lenses, spectacle frames and contact lenses, and 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.
 - (c) the supply and fitting of any contact lenses to members of the public; and [Para. (c) added by GN R47/2014 w.e.f. 28 January 2015]
 - (d) **the provision of vision therapy to members of the public.** [Para. (d) added by GN R47/2014 w.e.f. 28 January 2015]
- (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 suitably qualified medical practitioner or of a registered optometrist.

3. Acts pertaining to profession of dispensing optician

- (1) The following acts are hereby specified as acts which, for the purposes of the Act, are deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dispensing optician:
- (a) The provision, direct to the public, of spectacles, spectacle frames and 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, spectacle frames and 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, in order to make the public aware of “silent” pathology:

Warning

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

4. Repeal

The regulations published under Government Notices Nos. R. 1100 of 30 May 1984 and R. 228 of 16 March 2001 are hereby repealed.

(signed) MINISTER JT RADEBE, MP ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH