PART I.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

18 VAC 100-20-5. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Apprentice" means a person at least 16 years of age who is covered by a written agreement with an employer and approved by the Virginia Apprenticeship Council.

"Board" means the Board for Opticians.

"Contact lens [certified endorsed] optician" means any person not exempted by § 54.1-1701 of the Code of Virginia who is a Virginia licensed optician and who has received a contact lens [certification endorsement] from the board, who [prepares,] fits [or dispenses] contact lenses on prescription from licensed physicians or licensed optometrists for the intended wearers [; or refills contact lens prescriptions from a valid previously prepared prescription from a licensed physician or licensed optometrist].

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

"Fit and dispense" means to measure, adapt, fit or adjust eyeglasses, spectacles, lenses, or appurtenances to the human face, or to verify the prescription to be correct in the prescription eyeglasses or prescription optical devices.

"Licensed optician" means any person who is the holder of a license issued by the Board for Opticians.

"Optician" means any person not exempted by §54.1-1701 of the Code of Virginia who prepares or dispenses eyeglasses, spectacles, lenses, or related appurtenances for the intended wearers or users on prescriptions from licensed physicians or licensed optometrists, or as duplications or reproductions of previously prepared eyeglasses, spectacles, lenses, or related appurtenances; or who, in accordance with such prescriptions, duplications or reproductions, measures, adapts, fits, and adjusts eyeglasses, spectacles, lenses, or appurtenances to the human face.

"Opticianry" means the personal health service that is concerned with the art and science of ophthalmic optics as applied to the compounding, filling and adaptations of ophthalmic prescriptions, products, and accessories.

PART I II.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

18 VAC 100-20-10. Qualifications of applicant.

A. Any person desiring to sit for the examination shall submit an application on a form provided by the board with the required examination fee of \$55. All fees are nonrefundable and shall not be prorated.

- B. Each applicant shall provide information on his application establishing that he:
- A. An applicant for [a] license shall furnish satisfactory evidence on an application provided by the board establishing that:
 - 1. The applicant is at least 18 years of age unless emancipated under the provisions of § 16.1-333 of the Code of Virginia;

- 2. The applicant is a graduate of an accredited high school, or has completed the equivalent of grammar school and a four-year high school course, or is a holder of a certificate of general educational development;
- 3. *The applicant* is in good standing as a licensed optician in every jurisdiction where licensed:
- 4. Has not been convicted in any jurisdiction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, sexual offense, drug distribution or physical injury, or any felony. Any plea of note contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subdivision. The record of a conviction authenticated in such form as to be admissible in evidence under the laws of the jurisdiction where convicted shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction; and
- [4. The applicant has not been convicted in any jurisdiction of a misdemeanor or felony involving sexual offense, drug distribution or physical injury, or any felony that directly relates to the profession of opticianry. The board shall have the authority to determine, based upon all the information available, including the applicant's record of prior convictions, if the applicant is unfit or unsuited to engage in the profession of opticianry. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this subdivision. The licensee shall provide a certified copy of a final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case decision, and such copy shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction. This record shall be forwarded by the licensee to the board within 10 days after all appeal rights have expired;]

- [5. 4.] The applicant has successfully completed one of the following education requirements:
 - a. An approved [A board-approved] two-year course in a school of opticianry, including the study of topics essential to qualify for practicing as an optician; or
 - b. A three-year apprenticeship with a minimum of one school year of related instruction or home study while registered in the apprenticeship program in accordance with the standards established by the state Department of Labor and Industry, Division of Apprenticeship Training and approved by the Board for Opticians-;
- [5. 6.] The applicant has disclosed his current mailing address;
- [6. 7.] The nonresident applicant for a license has filed and maintained with the department an irrevocable consent for the director of the department to serve as service agent for all actions filed in any court in the Commonwealth; and
- [7. 8.] The applicant shall certify, as part of the application, that the applicant has read and understands Chapter 17 (§ 54.1-1700 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board.

18 VAC 100-20-20. Examination schedule. (Repealed.)

The board shall schedule an examination to be held at least twice each calendar year at a time and place to be designated by the board. The examination application and fee must be received 60 calendar days prior to the written examination.

18 VAC 100-20-30. Content of optician examination. (Repealed.)

The optician examination given by the board will include the following topics:

- 1. Ophthalmic materials:
- 2. Ophthalmic optics and equipment:
- 3. Ophthalmic spectacle lens grinding;
- 4. Prescription interpretation;
- 5. Theory of light;
- 6. Finishing, fitting and adjusting of eyeglasses and frames;
- 7. Ethics of relationship in respect to patient and physician or optometrist;
- 8. Anatomy and physiology; and
- 9. Administrative duties.

18 VAC 100-20-40. Passing grade and reexamination. (Repealed.)

The passing grade shall be 70% on the written section and 70% on the practical section of the examination.

- 1. An applicant who fails any section shall be required to be reexamined on that section and shall pay the required reexamination fee of \$70.
- 2. Any applicant who fails to pass the previously failed section within the next two successively scheduled examinations will be required to take and pass the entire examination and pay the full initial examination fee.

18 VAC 100-20-50. Licensing of out-of-state Opticians licensed in another state.

A. An out-of-state licensed optician licensed in another state seeking to be licensed as

an optician in Virginia shall submit an application on a form provided by the board with

the required fee [of \$55]. All fees are nonrefundable and shall not be prorated.

B. The board, using the following standards, shall issue a license to any person

licensed in another state who:

1. Has met requirements equivalent to those listed in 18 VAC 100-20-10; and

2. Has passed a substantially equivalent examination.

18 VAC 100-20-54. Fees.

A. The fee for examination or examinations shall consist of the combination of an

administrative charge of \$10 (spectacle), \$25 (contact lens), and the appropriate

contract charges. Examination service contracts shall be established in compliance

with the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 11-35 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). The

total examination fee shall not exceed a cost of \$300 to the applicant.

B. All application fees for licenses are nonrefundable and the date of receipt by the

board or its agent is the date which will be used to determine whether it is on time.

C. Application and examination fees must be submitted with the application for

licensure.

The following fees shall apply:

FEE TYPE	AMOU NT DUE	WHEN DUE
Application for licensure by examination or	\$55	With application
out-of-state applicants		
Application for contact lens certification by examination or for out-of-state applicants	\$70	With
Renewal	\$60	Up to the expiration date on the license with a 30-day grace period

Late renewal (in	\$25	Up to 12
addition to		months after
renewal fee)		the expiration
		date on the
		license
Reinstatement	\$100	After 12
		calendar
		months
		following the
		expiration
		date on the
		license
Duplicate wall	\$25	With written
certificate		request

18 VAC 100-20-55. Examinations.

All examinations required for licensure shall be approved by the board and administered by the board, or its agents or employees acting on behalf of the board.

The board shall schedule an examination to be held at least twice each calendar year at a time and place to be designated by the board.

The applicant shall follow all rules established by the board with regard to conduct at an examination. Such rules shall include any written instructions communicated prior to the examination date and any instructions communicated at the site, either written or BOARD FOR OPTICIANS - FINAL REGULATIONS

oral, on the date of the examination. Failure to comply with all rules established by the

board with regard to conduct at an examination shall be grounds for denial of

application.

18 VAC 100-20-56. Content of optician examination and reexamination.

A. Applicants for licensure shall pass a written examination and a practical

examination approved by the board.

B. The optician examination given by the board may include, but is not limited to, the

following topics:

1. Ophthalmic materials;

2. Ophthalmic optics and equipment;

Ophthalmic spectacle lens grinding;

4. Prescription interpretation;

5. Theory of light;

6. Finishing, fitting and adjusting of eyeglasses and frames;

7. Ethics of relationship in respect to patient and physician or optometrist;

8. Anatomy and physiology; and

9. Applicable laws and regulations.

C. Any applicant who fails the written or practical examination, or both examinations,

shall be required to be reexamined on the failed examination(s) and shall pay the

reexamination fee(s).

D. An applicant shall pass the written and practical examination within two years of the initial test date. After two years, the applicant shall file a new application and pay the required fee.

18 VAC 100-20-60. Endorsement to fit contact lenses; examination.

The board shall administer a contact lens examination to Virginia licensed opticians desiring to obtain an endorsement of "Contact Lens Competency" to fit contact lenses. The "Contact Lens Competency" endorsement shall be mandatory for *licensed* opticians to fit contact lenses as set out in §§ 54.1-1705 and 54.1-1706 of the Code of Virginia, and the contact lens endorsement shall not be issued unless the individual's license is in good standing. [A contact lens endorsed optician is any Virginia licensed optician who has been endorsed by the board to fit contact lens.]

- 1. The applicant must achieve a passing score of 70% on the contact lens examination.
- 2. The fee for the contact lens examination or reexamination shall be \$70. All fees are nonrefundable and shall not be prorated.
- 18 VAC 100-20-65. Content of contact lens endorsement examination and reexamination.
- A. The contact lens endorsement examination administered by the board may include, but is not limited to, the following topics:
 - 1. Rigid lens verification;
 - 2. Lens identification;

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- 3. Keratomy;
- 4. Slit lamp;
- 5. Slides (fitting patterns, edge patterns, quality stains); and
- 6. Insertion/removal.

B. Any applicant who fails the written or practical contact lens examination, or both examinations, who desires to retake the examination(s), shall be required to be reexamined on the failed examination(s) and shall pay the reexamination fee(s).

C. An applicant shall pass the written and practical examination within two years of the initial test date. After two years, the applicant shall file a new application and pay the required fee.

PART II III.

RENEWAL/REINSTATEMENT.

18 VAC 100-20-70. License renewal required.

A. Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire on December 31 of each even-numbered year. The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall mail a renewal notice to the licensee outlining the procedures for renewal. Failure to receive this notice shall not relieve the licensee of the obligation to renew.

B. Each licensee applying for renewal shall return the renewal notice with a fee of \$60 to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation no later than 5 p.m. on the expiration date shown on the license. If the licensee fails to receive the renewal notice, a copy of the license may be submitted with the required fee.

- C. Applicants for renewal of a license shall continue to meet the standards for entry set forth in subdivisions B 3 and 4 of 18 VAC 100-20-10.
- D. The board may deny renewal of a license for the same reasons as it may refuse licensure.
- A. Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire 24 months from the last day of the month in which the license was issued.
- B. The board shall mail a renewal application form to the licensee at the last known mailing address. Failure to receive this notice does not relieve the licensee of the obligation to renew. Prior to the expiration date shown on the license, each licensee desiring to renew his license must return all of the required forms and the appropriate fee to the board as outlined in 18 VAC 100-20-54. If the licensee fails to receive the renewal notice, a copy of the existing license shall be submitted to the board with the required fee.
- C. Licensees shall be required to renew their license by submitting the appropriate fee made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia. Any licensee who fails to renew within 30 days after the license expires shall pay a late renewal fee, in addition to the renewal fee, as set out in 18 VAC 100-20-54.
- D. The board, in its discretion and for just cause, may deny renewal of a license. Upon such denial, the applicant for renewal may request that a proceeding be held in accordance with the provision of the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

18 VAC 100-20-80. License reinstatement required. (Repealed.)

A. If the licensee fails to renew his license within 30 days following the expiration date, he must apply for reinstatement of his license on a form provided by the board.

- B. If the renewal application is received by the department more than 30 days after the expiration date of the license, a late fee of \$25 is required.
- C. Applicants for reinstatement of a license shall continue to meet the standards for entry as set forth in subdivisions B 3 and 4 of 18 VAC 100-20-10.
- D. The board may deny reinstatement of a license for the same reasons as it may refuse initial licensure.
- E. When an individual fails to renew his license after a period of one year after the expiration date, he must apply as follows:
 - 1. Submit an application on a form provided by the board establishing that he has met all of the requirements of 18 VAC 100-20-10 B 5 a or b and a fee of \$100;
 - 2. Take and receive a passing score of 70% on the practical examination and 70% on the written examination on his first attempt; and
 - 3. Meet the requirements of 18 VAC 100-20-10 B 5 a or b before sitting for the written examination and the practical examination again if the applicant fails to pass both the written and the practical examination on his first attempt.

PART IV.

REINSTATEMENT.

18 VAC 100-20-81. Reinstatement required.

A. If a licensee fails to renew his license within 12 months after the expiration date on the license, the licensee must apply for reinstatement on a form provided by the board.

- 1. Individuals for reinstatement shall continue to meet the standards of entry as set out in subdivisions [3 1] through [7 8] of [18 VAC 100-20-20 18 VAC 100-20-10] .
- 2. Individuals for reinstatement shall submit the required fee as set out in 18 VAC 100-20-54.
- B. Twenty-four months after expiration of the license, the individual may be reinstated if he can show proof of continuous, active, ethical and legal practice outside of Virginia. If not, the individual must show proof of completion of a board-approved review course which measures current competence. Credit will not be allowed for any review course which has not been approved by the board prior to administration of the course.
- C. Sixty months after expiration of the license, the individual, who cannot show proof of continuous, active, ethical and legal practice outside of Virginia, shall be required to apply as a new applicant for licensure. He shall be required to meet all current education requirements and retake the board's written and practical examination.
- D. The board, in its discretion and for just cause, may deny reinstatement of a license. Upon such denial, the applicant for reinstatement may request that a proceeding be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

E. A licensee who reinstates his license shall be regarded as having been continually licensed without interruption. Therefore, the licensee shall remain under the disciplinary authority of the board during the entire period and may be held accountable for his activities during this period. Nothing in these regulations shall divest the board of its authority to discipline a licensee for a violation of the law or regulations during the period of licensure as set out in this provision.

PART # V.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT.

18 VAC 100-20-85. Lenses and frames standards are as follows:

A. Power Tolerance (diopters).

Sphere: Plano to \pm 6.50 \pm .13 diopter

Above ± 6.50 $\pm 2\%$

Cylinder: Plano - 2.00 \pm .13 diopter

-2.12 to -4.50 ± .15 diopter

above -4.50 ± 4%

B. Cylinder Axis.

Cyl. Power Diopters	Degrees ±
0.12 - 0.37	7°
0.50 - 0.75	5°
0.87 - 1.50	3°
1.62 and above	2°

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C. Distance [$\frac{P.}{D.}$ Optical Center.] Contribution to net horizontal prism from processing should not exceed 2/3 prism diopter. A maximum of ± 2.5 mm variation from the specified distance [$\frac{PD}{D.}$ optical center] is permissible in higher power lens combinations.

D. Prism Tolerances (Vertical). Contribution to imbalance from processing should not exceed 1/3 prism diopters. A maximum of 1.0mm difference in vertical level is permissible in higher power lens combinations.

E. Segment Location.

Vertical ± 1.0 mm

Horizontal $\pm 2.5 \, mm$

Tilt or twist in the case of a flat-top segment, the tilt of its horizontal axis should be less than 1/2 mm in differential elevation between the segment edges.

F. Multifocal Additions.

Plano + 8.00 $\pm .13$ diopter

Above + 8.00 $\pm .18$ diopter

[G. Thickness. Standard dress thickness for minus power lenses should be 2.0 mm at optical center. Plus power lenses should have an edge thickness of 1.5 mm - 2.00 mm or 2.4 mm for Nylor type frames. When specified thickness is prescribed, the tolerance should be \pm 0.3 mm. Lenses to be used for occupational or safety purposes must be 3.00 mm at its thinnest point.

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H. G. Base Curve. When specified, the base curve should be supplied within \pm 0.75

diopter.

[I. H.] Warpage. The cylindrical surface power induced in the base curve of a lens

should not exceed 1 diopter. This recommendation need not apply within 6mm of the

mounting eyewire.

[J. I.] Localized errors (aberration). Areas outside a 20mm radius from the specified

major reference point or optical center need not be tested for aberration. Progressive

lenses are exempt from this requirement.

18 VAC 100-20-87. Contact lens standards are as follows:

To fit contact lenses, the following shall be done:

1. The prescription (RX) must show evidence that contact lenses may be worn by

the patient before the prescription can be filled by the licensed optician. Verbal

approval from the optometrist or ophthalmologist or its agents or employees is

acceptable. The licensed optician must make a notation in the patient's record of

the name of the authorizing optometrist or ophthalmologist and the date of the

authorization.

2. The optician must use all the following to fit contact lenses:

a. Slit Lamp;

b. Keratometer; and

c. Standardized Snellen type acuity chart.

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18 VAC 100-20-90. Display of license.

Every person to whom a current license has been granted under these regulations this chapter shall visibly display it in public view his unaltered license in a conspicuous place in plain view of the public in the principal office in which [they work he works]. A duplicate license which has been notarized shall be posted in any branch offices.

18 VAC 100-20-100. Notification of change of address or name.

A licensee shall notify the board in writing no later than 60 days after the occurrence of a change of address or name.

Notice in writing shall be given to the board in the event of any change of name or address. Such notice shall be mailed to the board within 30 days of the change of name or address. The board shall not be responsible for the licensee's failure to receive notices, communications and correspondence caused by the licensee's failure to promptly notify the board in writing of any change of name or address.

18 VAC 100-20-110. Discipline Grounds for disciplinary action.

A. The board may is empowered to revoke, suspend, or refuse to [grant or] renew a license and may is empowered to impose a fine up to \$1,000 the statutory limit, as authorized under § 54.1-202 of the Code of Virginia, per offense violation on a licensee for any of the following reasons:

1. Using alcohol or nonprescribed controlled substances as defined in Chapter 34 (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia or alcohol at the work place during working hours;

- 2. Displaying professional incompetence or negligence, *including but not limited to failure to comply with this part* in the performance of opticianry;
- 3. Fraudulently certifying that an applicant possesses Presenting false or fraudulent information on an application certifying possession of the qualifications required under 18 VAC 100-20-10;
- 4. Violating or inducing others to violate any provisions of Chapters 1, 2, 3 or 17 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia, or of any other statute applicable to the practice of the profession herein regulated, or of any provisions of these regulations this chapter;
- 5. Publishing or causing to be published any advertisement *related to opticianry* that is false, deceptive, or misleading;
- 6. Having been convicted in any jurisdiction of a misdemeanor [or felony involving] moral turpitude, [sexual offense, drug distribution or physical injury,] or of any felony that directly relates to the profession of opticianry. The board shall have the authority to determine, based upon all the information available, including the applicant's record of prior convictions, if the applicant is unfit or unsuited to engage in the profession of opticianry. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this section. The record of a conviction authenticated in such form as to be admissible in evidence under the laws of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred shall be forwarded to the board within 10 days of entry and shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction; or The licensee shall provide a certified copy of a final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case

decision, and such copy shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction. This record shall be forwarded by the licensee to the board within 10 days after all appeal rights have expired;

- 7. Having been disciplined by another jurisdiction in the practice of opticianry. Documentary evidence of such discipline shall be submitted by the licensee to the board within 10 days of entry. after all appeal rights have expired; or
- 8. Allowing any person to engage in the practice of opticianry, except an optician apprentice or student enrolled in a course in a school of opticianry under the direct supervision of a licensed optician.
- B. A finding of improper or dishonest conduct in the practice of the profession by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be cause for disciplinary action.

18 VAC 100-20-120. Accountability of licensee.

A licensee shall be responsible for his acts or omissions and for the acts of his agents or employees or his staff in the performance of opticianry services.

18 VAC 100-20-130. Approval of review courses.

- A. Review courses set out in this chapter shall be approved by the board, except those provided by institutions, schools and universities approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, for which continuing education units are awarded. Training courses requiring board approval shall be approved by the board prior to commencing in accordance with subsection B of this section.
- B. Training activities for which experience credit may be granted must be conducted in general conformance with the International Association for Continuing Education and

Training's "Criteria and Guidelines for Quality Continuing Education and Training Programs: the CEU and Other Measurement Units," 1998. The board reserves the right to waive any of the requirements of the association's guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Only classroom, laboratory and field trip contact time will be used to compute training credits. No credit will be given for breaks, meals, or receptions.

- 1. Organization. The board will only approve training offered by a sponsor who is an identifiable organization with a mission statement outlining its functions, structure, process and philosophy, and that has a staff of one or more persons with the authority to administer training.
- 2. Training records. The board will only approve training offered by a sponsor who maintains training records for all participants for a minimum of five years, and who has a written policy on retention and release of training records.
- 3. Instructors. The board will only approve training conducted by personnel who have demonstrated competence in the subject being taught, an understanding of the learning objective, a knowledge of the learning process to be used, and a proven ability to communicate.
- 4. Objectives. The board will only approve courses that have a series of stated objectives that are consistent with the job requirements of an optician. The training content must be consistent with those objectives.
- 5. Course completion requirements. For successful completion of a training program, participants must attend 90% or more of the class contact time and must

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demonstrate their learning through written examinations, completion of a project, self-assessment, oral examination, or other assessment technique.

- C. The board shall consider the following information, to be submitted by the instructor, institution, school or university on forms provided by the board, at least 45 days prior to the scheduled training activity:
 - 1. Course information.
 - a. Course title,
 - b. Planned audience,
 - c. Name of sponsor,
 - d. Name, address, phone number of contact person,
 - e. Schedule presentation dates,
 - f. Detailed course schedule, hour-by-hour,
 - g. List of planned breaks,
 - h. Scheduled presentation location(s), and
 - i. Relevancy of course to opticianry licensing.
 - 2. Instructor qualifications.
 - a. Name of instructor,
 - b. Title of instructor, and
 - c. Summary of qualifications to teach this course.
 - 3. Training materials.

- a. Course objectives A listing of the course objectives stated in terms of the skills, knowledge, or attitude the participant will be able to demonstrate as a result of the training,
- b. Course outline A detailed outline showing the planned activities that will occur during the training program, including major topics, planned presentation sequence, laboratory and field activities, audio-visual presentations, and other major activities,
- c. Course reference materials A list of the name, publisher and publication date for commercially available publications; for reference materials developed by the course sponsor or available exclusively through the course, a copy of the reference materials,
- d. Audio-visual support materials A listing of any commercially available audiovisual support material that will be used in the program; a brief description of any sponsor or instructor generated audio-visual material that will be used, and
- e. Handouts Identification of all commercially available handout material that will be used; copies of all other planned handouts.
- 4. Determination of successful completion. A description of the means that will be used to determine the successful completion of the training program by individual attendees, such as examinations, projects, personal evaluations by the instructor, or other recognized evaluation techniques.
- C. Recurring training programs. If there are plans to present the same course of instruction routinely at multiple locations with only minor modifications and changes, the

board may approve the overall program rather than individual presentations if so requested by the sponsor.

- 1. The board shall consider all of the information listed above except those items related to specific offerings of the course.
- 2. Board approval may be granted for a specific period of time or for an indefinite period.
- 3. Board approval will apply only to those specific offerings certified by the sponsoring organization as having been conducted by instructors meeting the established criteria and in accordance with the board-approved courses, outlines and objectives.
- 4. To maintain approval of the program, changes made to the program since initial approval must be submitted to the board for review and approval. Changes must be approved by the board prior to any training subsequent to the changes.