



Notice of Proposed Changes Relating to Licensure Requirements for Dental Hygienists and Dentists, and Courtesy Licenses

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

December 2018

Licensure Requirements for Dental Hygienists- 12 AAC 28.937

1. What is the purpose of this regulation change?

These changes are being proposed to update current regulations, to clarify that a dental hygienist must be licensed for a minimum of five years to qualify for licensure by credentials. The proposed change to the regulations does not change the current requirements, just clarifies it to clear up any misunderstanding.

Educational Requirements for Dentists- 12 AAC 28.938

1. What is the purpose of this regulation change?

The current regulation requires all dentists applying for a license to have graduated from a CODA accredited dental school. This does not allow for foreign dental graduates to obtain a license in Alaska. The change is adopted by the Board, it will add "a two year post-graduate residency program" as a means to qualify for a dental license if the applicant received their dental degree in a foreign country.

2. Why is this regulation change needed?

It has become clear in the last several years that there are many dentists in the United States that have come from foreign countries where they received their general dentistry education. The Board feels it is necessary to allow foreign trained dentists to obtain a license in Alaska. Completing an accredited post-graduate residency will ensure the foreign trained dentist has met the educational requirements the Board feels is necessary to meet current dental standards in the US.

Licensure Requirements for Dentists Applying by Exam- 12 AAC 28.940(b)(8)(B)(vi)

1. What is the purpose of this regulation change?

This regulation is proposed to be updated to change the requirements for the patient based operative examination procedure. Currently the exam requires a dentist to perform an alloy *and* a composite. The change will allow the dentist to choose an alloy *or* a composite, and complete one additional operative procedure.

2. Why is this regulation change needed?

The Board has determined that most dentists have not completed an alloy operative procedure during the clinical exam, but will choose to do a composite if given a choice during the exam. Although the Board feels all dentists should know how to perform an alloy and be tested on it, most dentists applying for a license by examination in Alaska may not qualify because they were not tested on an alloy. If the regulation was not changed to allow the composite, it will prohibit many dentists from qualifying for a license by exam.

Licensure Requirements for Dentists Applying by Credentials- 12 AAC 28.951

1. What is the purpose of this regulation change?

These regulations are being proposed to update current regulations, to clarify that a dentist must be licensed for a minimum of five years to qualify for licensure by credentials. The proposed change to the regulations does not change the current requirements, just clarifies it to clear up any misunderstanding.

Courtesy License Requirements- 12 AAC 28.955

1. What is the purpose of this regulation change?

The purpose of the changes to the courtesy license requirements is to allow military dentists and hygienists serving in the state of Alaska to obtain a courtesy license.

2. Why is this regulation needed?

Currently the centralized statute, AS 08.01.062, which gives the Board authority to issue courtesy licenses, requires the person to be a non-resident of the state who enters the state so that, on a temporary basis, they may practice the occupation regulated by the board. The Board has had several dentists serving in the military in Alaska who do not hold an Alaska dental license, wishing to serve underserved persons in local communities without remuneration. To do so, they must obtain a courtesy license. Updating the regulations by defining “non-resident” will allow the military dentist to be able to qualify for the courtesy license.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.