



Notice of Proposed Changes Relating to Licensure Requirements, Apprenticeship, Renewal, and Continuing Competency Requirements for Dispensing Opticians

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

September 2019

1. Why are these changes being proposed?

The regulations for the dispensing optician program have not been updated since 2003. In 2008, the legislature sunsetted the dispensing optician board, moving regulation of the program to the department. Several of the regulations are being updated by replacing the term “board” with “department”. In addition to those changes, the following changes are also being proposed:

- Clarifying requirements for an application for licensure as a dispensing optician.
- Clarifying requirements for an application for a registration as a dispensing optician apprentice.
- Adding a renewal for the apprentice registration.
- Repealing the regulation for the transitional licensing that must have had to occur by January 2003, as this is no longer needed.
- Updating the names of organizations.
- Clarifying renewal requirements.
- Clarifying continuing competency requirements.

2. What are the changes being proposed?

The proposed changes to each section are described below:

12 AAC 30.070.

This section is being repealed and readopted. The changes proposed are clarification of what type of documentation is required to verify the training or work experience for a dispensing optician license. The only addition to current regulations is an authorization for release of records form under (6).

12 AAC 30.075.

References to the “board” have been removed and replaced with “department”.

The name of the Career Progression Program sponsored by the National Academy of Opticianry was changed to the current name of Ophthalmic Career Progression Program (OCPD).

Subsection (b) is being repealed as it refers to transitional language for training without taking the currently approved courses. This must have occurred prior to January 2003, therefore no longer needed.

12 AAC 30.100.

This section is being updated to include:

- Clarification of the verification of the current license from another jurisdiction must include verification of passing the applicable examination(s)
- Addition of an authorization for release of records form
- Clarification of allowance of work experience for the license by credentials application process

12 AAC 30.105.

Subsection (a) is being amended by adding a new paragraph requiring verification of meeting the applicable courses required by 12 AAC 30.075 if applying for an endorsement by examination under 12 AAC 30.070. Verification of the courses is required by statute, but does not specifically require it by regulation. This will correct the deficiency.

The addition of subsection (c) will clarify that the applicant may also add an endorsement by substituting an appropriate degree from a college in lieu of the course and experience/training requirements.

12 AAC 30.110.

Subsection (a) changes clarify what is required to apply for an apprentice registration. The application requirements will include a completed application form, fees, a form completed by the supervisor, and an authorization for release of records form. The only change is the addition of the authorization for release of records form.

Subsection (d) changes include the notification by a supervisor of apprentice termination or completion of training must be on a form provided by the department and must include the reason for termination. The only change to this subsection is the use of the form and providing the reason for the termination.

Subsection (f) is being repealed as the apprentice does not need to notify the department of termination if the supervisor is required to notify the department.

Subsection (h) is adding a regulation reference for clarification purposes.

New subsection (i) will require an apprentice to renew the registration on a biennial basis to document with the department the apprentice is still in an active apprenticeship.

12 AAC 30.125.

Subsection (b) is changing the word “shall” to “may”. In 12 AAC 30.125(a)(6) it allows an alternate supervisor to be named, but does not require an alternate supervisor. The term “shall” is a requirement, therefore the change to “may”.

New subsection (d) references the requirement of a supervisor to notify the department when an apprentice has been terminated, aligning with 12 AAC 30.110(d) above.

12 AAC 30.200.

Paragraph (a)(5) is being repealed as The Optical Wholesalers Association is no longer in business.

The only other change in this section is “board” changing to “department”.

12 AAC 30.210.

The changes in this section are “board” changing to “department”, and a new subsection clarifying the continuing competency certificate requirements. The new language will require what aspect of opticianry the continuing competency certificate is for, and if for both spectacles and contacts, how the time was divided in the course. This will assist the licensing examiner during the continuing competency audit in identifying the aspect for which the certificate is for.

12 AAC 30.220.

This section is being updated to clarify the continuing competency requirements by moving the wording requiring continuing competency for each aspect in which the licensee is licensed, from subsection (c) to subsections (a) and (f).

12 AAC 30.900.

This section is being updated to correct regulation references and changing “board” to “department”.

12 AAC 30.905.

This is a new section outlining the requirements for dispensing optician renewal. This clarifies for the licensee what is required for renewal or reinstatement, but does not add anything new to the current renewal requirements.

12 AAC 30.990.

The term “board” is being repealed because there is no longer a board.

The meaning of “division” is being updated to the current name of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

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