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## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

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### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R. 711

9 September 2014

#### DENTAL TECHNICIANS ACT, 1979 (ACT NO. 19 OF 1979)

#### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SCOPE OF PROFESSION OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS

The Minister of Health intends, on the recommendation of the South African Dental Technicians Council and in terms of Sections 4 (h) and 50 (1) (r) of the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act No. 19 of 1979), to make the Regulations in this schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag x 828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Public Entities and Management), within three months of the date of publication of this notice.

#### SCHEDULE

##### Definitions

1. In these Regulations "the Act" means the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act No. 19 of 1979), 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 –

**'custom made appliances/'devices'** means any removable orthodontic devices, non-metallic and metallic partial or full dentures, crowns, bridges and maxilla-facial prosthesis either tissue born, tooth born or implant supported, as well as anti-snoring, sleep apnea and headache or similar custom made devices;

**'the Council'** means the South African Dental Technicians Council established in terms of Section 2 of the Act;

**'Dental Technician'** means any person registered as a Dental Technician under Section 18 of the Act;

**'Dental Technologist'** means any person who has acquired a BTech: Dental Technology degree and who is registered as a Dental Technologist under Section 18 of the Act;

**'quality'** means fitness for purpose, level of conformance and the degree to which the custom made device was produced correctly;

**'safety'** refers to the wellbeing of the patient while handling and wearing the custom made device not exceeding the indicated lifespan or intended purpose;

**'supervise'** means a continuous action uninterrupted by action or location;

**'relevant Dental Clinician'** refers to a person who trained to be a Dentist or who subsequently furthered his/her studies in dentistry and is now practicing as a Specialist Dentist and who is registered as such with the Health Professions Council of South Africa;

**'appropriate clinical professional'** refers to a suitably qualified Medical Practitioner or Specialist Medical Practitioner registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa who in a situation where a relevant Dental Clinician is not available would be allowed to preside and act in the best interests of the patient;

**'qualification for registration as a Dental Technician'** refers to the National Diploma: Dental Technology issued by an approved Technikon / University of Technology (UoT) dated 1979 or later, or a foreign qualification approved by the Council, recognized in the country of origin for registration to practice as a Dental Technician in that country together with the successful completion (50%) of the

registration examination and the subject Jurisprudence.

**‘qualification for registration as dental technologist’** refers to the following:

- BTech: Dental Technology issued by a Council approved Technikon / UoT; or
- Higher Diploma: Dental Technology issued by a Council approved Technikon /UoT; or
- Diploma: Dental Technology issued by the Council; or
- Registration with the Council after the successful completion of a registered apprenticeship.

### **Acts pertaining to the profession of Dental Technician**

2. (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 Dental Technician:

- (a) carry out infection control procedures to prevent physical, chemical and microbiological contamination in the laboratory;
- (b) select appropriate materials for the design, manufacture and repair of fixed and removable custom made devices as prescribed by a relevant practicing Dental Clinician or other appropriate clinical professional;
- (c) design, plan and manufacture a range of fixed or removable custom made devices according to a written prescription or verbal instruction by a relevant practicing Dental Clinician or other appropriate clinical professional;
- (d) repair and modify fixed or removable custom made devices on the instruction of a relevant Dental Clinician or other appropriate clinical professional;
- (e) carry out shade taking if requested by a relevant practicing Dental Clinician or other appropriate clinical professional;
- (f) verify and take responsibility for the quality and safety of devices leaving the Dental Laboratory in as far as appropriate to the

profession; and

- (g) supervise a Dental Laboratory Assistant and a Dental Technician with restricted registration (Dental Technicians' Assistant).

(2) The provisions of this Regulation prohibit the performance of the following professional acts by Dental Technician:

- (a) be a Dental Technician Contractor or supervise a Dental Laboratory (registered or unregistered);
- (b) perform clinical procedures or fit custom made devices; and
- (c) provide treatment for or give clinical advice to patients.

### **Acts pertaining to the profession of Dental Technologist**

3. (1) Notwithstanding the scope of profession of Dental Technicians, 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 a Dental Technologist:

- (a) be a Dental Technician Contractor, own or co-own a Dental Laboratory and/or supervise a Dental Laboratory as intended in terms of Sections 29 (5) and (6) of the Act;
- (b) employ Dental Technicians, Laboratory Assistants and a Dental Technician with restricted registration (Dental Technicians' Assistant);
- (c) review cases coming into the laboratory to decide how they should progress; and
- (d) work with the relevant Dental Clinician or appropriate clinical professional on treatment planning and design of custom made fixed or removable devices or appliances for a specific patient; and
- (e) advise patients regarding the handling and care of fixed and removable custom made devices.

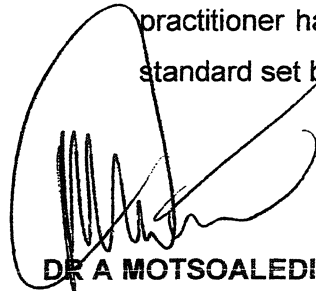
(2) The provisions of this Regulation prohibit the performance of the

following professional acts by Dental Technologists:

- (a) the performance of clinical procedures;
- (b) fit custom made fixed and removable devices without the written consent of a relevant practicing Dental Clinician or other appropriate clinical practitioner; and
- (c) provide treatment for or give clinical advice to patients.

**General limitations on the professional acts of the Dental Technician and Dental Technologist**

4. Areas of Dental Technician's and Dental Technologist's practice which were not included in a practitioner's training should not be undertaken unless the practitioner has successfully completed appropriate training and practices to the standard set by the Council.



**DR A MOTSOALEDI, MP**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH**

**DATE**

12/8/2014