

# Dispensing Opticians

## Applications under Directive 2005/36/EC, Recognition of Professional Qualifications

### 1. General Information

#### **Bord na Radharcmhastóirí–The Opticians Board**

The Opticians Board is the regulatory body established under the Opticians Acts, 1956 and 2003. It maintains registers of optometrists and dispensing opticians who may practise in Ireland. It is illegal for any person, other than a registered optometrist (or a registered medical practitioner) or a registered dispensing optician to practise as a dispensing optician in the state.

#### **Under the Opticians Acts:**

- Only registered dispensing opticians (or registered optometrists or registered medical practitioners) are entitled to dispense or sell spectacles (as defined).
- Registered dispensing opticians are obliged, where in the course of an eye examination, the presence of a disease or condition of the eye is suspected to inform the patient of this and recommend that the patient consult a registered medical practitioner.

#### **Under the Board's rules:**

- Only dispensing opticians registered with entitlement to fit contact lenses (and issued with the certificate) are entitled to do so.
- Persons registered in the Board's Register of Dispensing Opticians who can furnish satisfactory evidence of training or experience in the fitting of contact lenses and their aftercare may apply for the Certificate of Entitlement to Fit Contact Lenses.

#### **Under the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations:**

Registered dispensing opticians with entitlement to fit contact lenses have access to fluorescein sodium for *administration* to patients in the course of professional practice.

**II. This page is being updated. In the meantime, please contact the Administrator for an application form and further information.**

**Completed application forms, supporting documentation and applicable fees should be returned to the Board's office.**