

OPTOMETRISTS BOARD
HONG KONG
香港視光師管理委員會

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10 May 2006

To: All registered Optometrists

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Guidelines for assessing professional training
for the purpose of restoration to the Optometrists Register**

This serves to inform you of the guidelines that the Optometrists Board (the Board) has recently endorsed for assessing training for the purpose of restoration to the Optometrists Register (the Register).

In accordance with section 10(5) of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance, a person whose name has been removed from the Register may apply to the Board for restoration of his or her name to the Register. The Board may, subject to any conditions it considers appropriate, approve or decline the application.

In considering applications for restoration to the Register, the Board will take into consideration various factors, such as whether the applicants have practised the profession during the removal period, whether there has been any criminal/professional proceedings, whether any professional training has been undertaken etc. In particular, the Board has to ensure that the applicants possess updated knowledge and skills to practise the profession, in that either the date of application for restoration is not more than one year from the expiry date of the last practising certificate held by the applicants or that they have taken up professional training in optometry acceptable by the Board during the removal period. To facilitate assessment on the training undertaken by the applicants for restoration purpose, the Board, at its meeting of 19 April 2006, endorsed the following guidelines –

- (a) Applicants applying for restoration after **more than 1 year** from the expiry date of the last practising certificate would have to undertake **20 hours** of continuing professional development (CPD) programmes accredited by the Board before the applications for restoration would be approved;
- (b) Applicants applying for restoration after **more than 2 years** from the expiry date of the last practising certificate would have to undertake **30 hours** of CPD programmes accredited by the Board before the applications for restoration would be approved;

- (c) Applicants applying for restoration after **more than 3 years** from the expiry date of the last practising certificate would have to undertake **40 hours** of CPD programmes accredited by the Board before the applications for restoration would be approved;
- (d) The maximum requirement would be **40 hours** i.e. for applications submitted after more than 4 years from the expiry date of the last practicing certificate, the applicants would have to undertake 40 hours of CPD programmes accredited by the Board; and
- (e) Those who were previously allowed to practise both refraction and contact lens fitting would have to spend at least **50%** of the required CPD hours on contact lens-related CPD programmes.

The Board further decided that the guidelines, which can be accessed at the Board's website at http://www.smp-council.org.hk/op/english/index_message.htm, would be applicable to applications received on or after 1 May 2006.

Yours faithfully,

(Ms Charling LI)
Secretary, Optometrists Board